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# ***The American Seybert Family, Their Spouses and Children***

By  
Jack M. Seybert

**Version May 1994**

(Earlier versions may contain less accurate or less complete information, please destroy them.)

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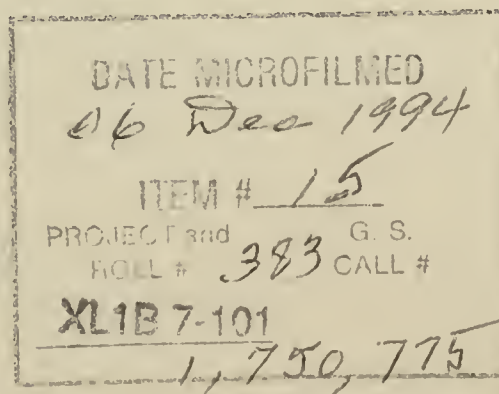
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## Preface

I began this family history project many years ago when I first saw pictures of some of my ancestors. Starting out as a genealogical study, it eventually turned into a search of my family history. Questions such as: what they were really like, where they lived, and what motivated them continued to lead me to gather more information. Along with several side lines, these questions led me through four generations of the Seybert family tree and has revealed a portion of our family history. The roots of this tree reach back though history and the branches continue to grow outward. The branches of this family long gone have left great evidence of existence, and the new branches forever bear witness of their greatness and strength.

A project such as this began with my desire to learn more of my ancestors. As information and data are collected, the work began to take on a more personal meaning. The obstacles often seemed insurmountable but were somehow overcome. Time and distance are the greatest barrier to the family historian and I suffered both. The true satisfaction came with the small victories, finding the little pieces, which eventually fit together to complete the puzzle.

This particular paper is limited to the first four generations of this Seybert family in North America, and limited information of thier spouses and the families of the spouses. As the reader will notice, there are limitations, especially in the lives of Aaron and Mary. Aaron and Mary seen to be my largest obstacle, the statistical data was found, not much concerning their personal lives. I learned a valuable lesson, the information is somewhere, in a home or memory and it only has to be found. This work will be continued and added to for years to come. It is my hope that future generations will continue this effort.

This compilation of information would not have been possible without the help of many friends and relatives. I cannot begin to mention all the clerks and record keepers from times past who diligently kept records. But to those living, I am grateful for the hours spent telling me their memories of dear ones past. Walter Sigler, whose memory of the Troyers is nothing short of amazing. Alice Jane Sherman, my patient Aunt who tolerated many prying questions. Though not a Seybert, David Brener provided extremely valuable research into the early Seyberts. His research provides a foundation for all future study into the lives of generations of Seyberts. Virginia Hostettler, a dear lady who provided me with many piece of extremely important family information. To John Spice, a friend I have yet to meet and has shared the results of his research of the Bowerman family. All of those state, county, and city clerks, alive and dead who preserved valuable records. To my parents, Fred and Carolyn Seybert, who at some time, must have tired of my questions but never said so. Most of all to my wife Jo, who has tolerated the countless hours I spent isolated from the family to work on our genealogy and family history. I thank her in advance for the patience she will afford me in the future.





Some of my source material is not dated nor attributed to any particular person. This is particularly the case with many newspaper articles and hand written family notes. I have tried to document all of the information and let the reader know the instances of my analysis and supposition. I have the actual references (or copies) in my possession and will be happy to discuss these in more detail with anyone interested. Many of these references such as wills, are included as appendices. They do not make for very exciting reading but they provide some insight into the lives of the testator. I have transcribed these documents into a readable format leaving most of the wording, spelling and formatting true to the original.

I do not pretend to present this work as an exhaustive or complete history of these four generations of Seyberts. It is nothing more than a compilation of many bits of information collected over many years. I have conducted my own research by collecting family, and demographic information from many sources, collected other peoples' work, then analyze and assimilate it into a single document. I make assumptions based on available information, concerning the movement and immigration of families and the lives of the people discussed in this work.

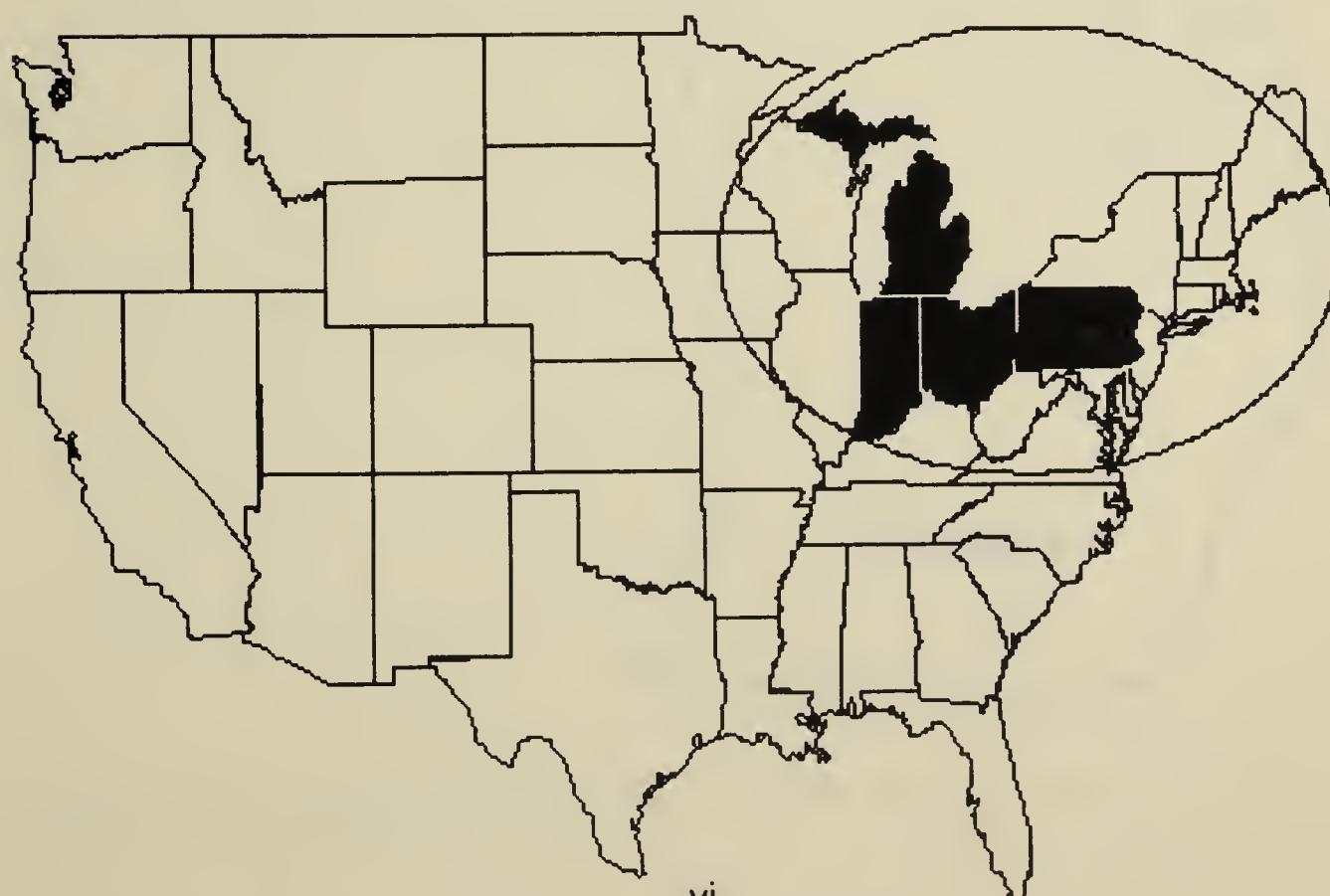
A project of this magnitude will most surely have mistakes of omission and commission. I have tried to be as thorough and honest as possible and present all the information I have thus far located. I request all who read this to let me know of omitted or incorrect information so that I can correct the mistakes and continue my pursuit of our family history. In order to continue this work, if anyone has or knows where information, documents, or pictures of any early Seybert or any of thier family may be located, please contact me. This work is never done and more information will make the presentation more complete.





## Significant Sites in Seybert History (overview)

The following pages of maps are certainly not an all inclusive listing of important sites to the Seybert family. They are a representation of the major areas and are designed to give the reader a general idea of the locations of the villages, towns, cities, counties and states which impact the lives of the Seybert ancestors. The locations as identified by an asterisk are not exact. These depictions are presented in alphabetical order.



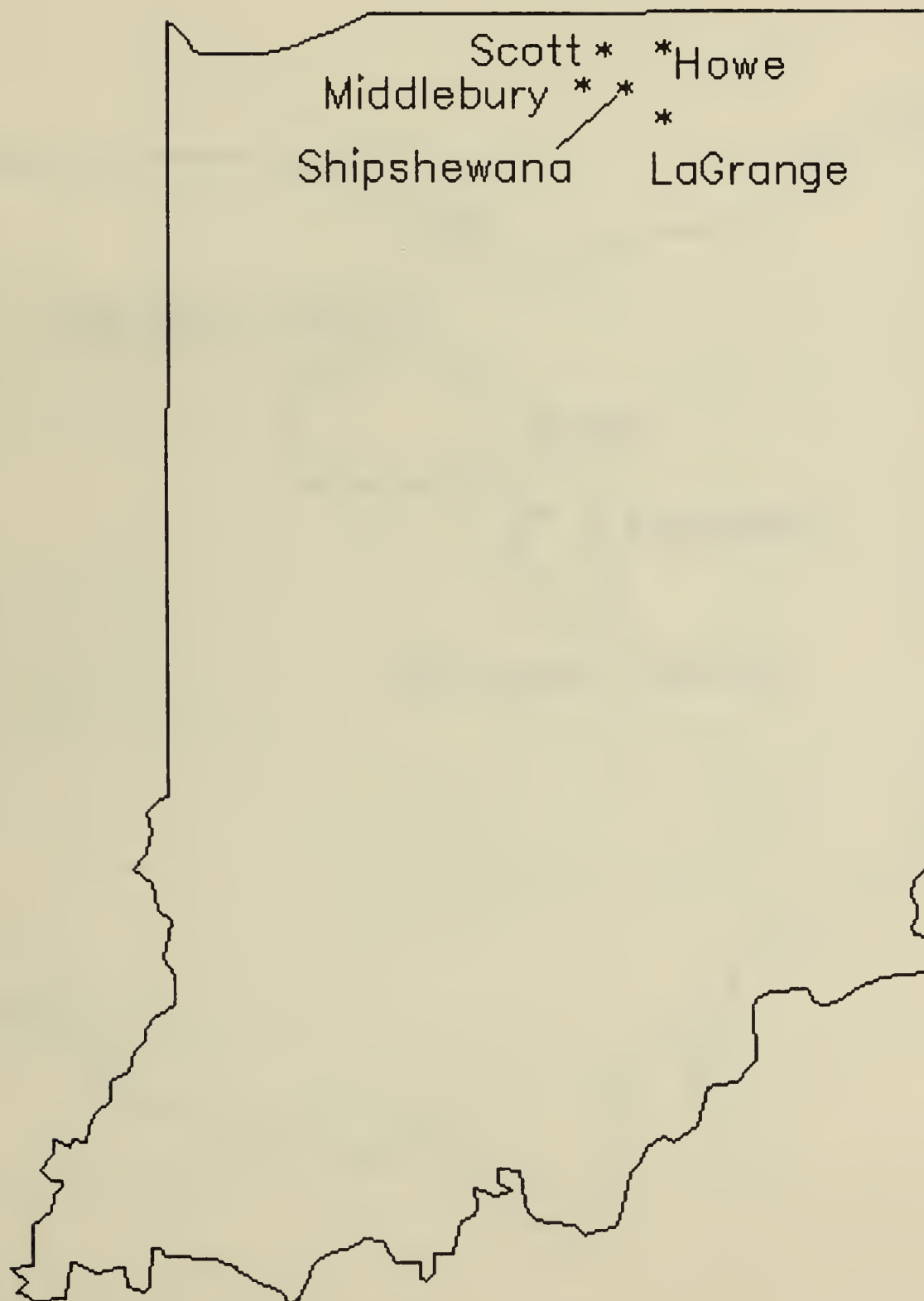


# Map of Significant Sites in Seybert History Michigan





## Map of Significant Sites in Seybert History Indiana



These towns of northern Indiana are in about a 20 mile radius of each other.



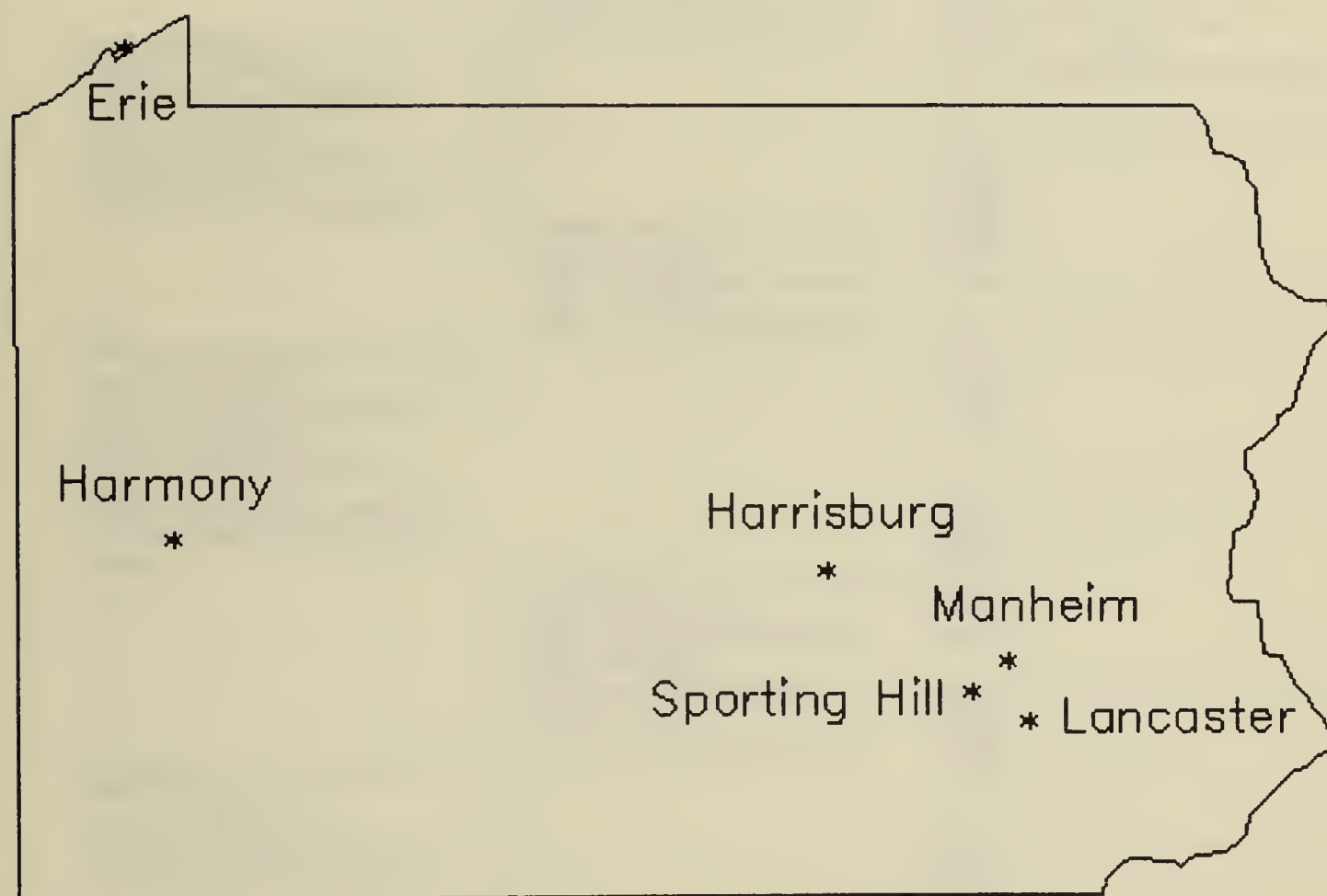


# Map of Significant Sites in Seybert History Ohio



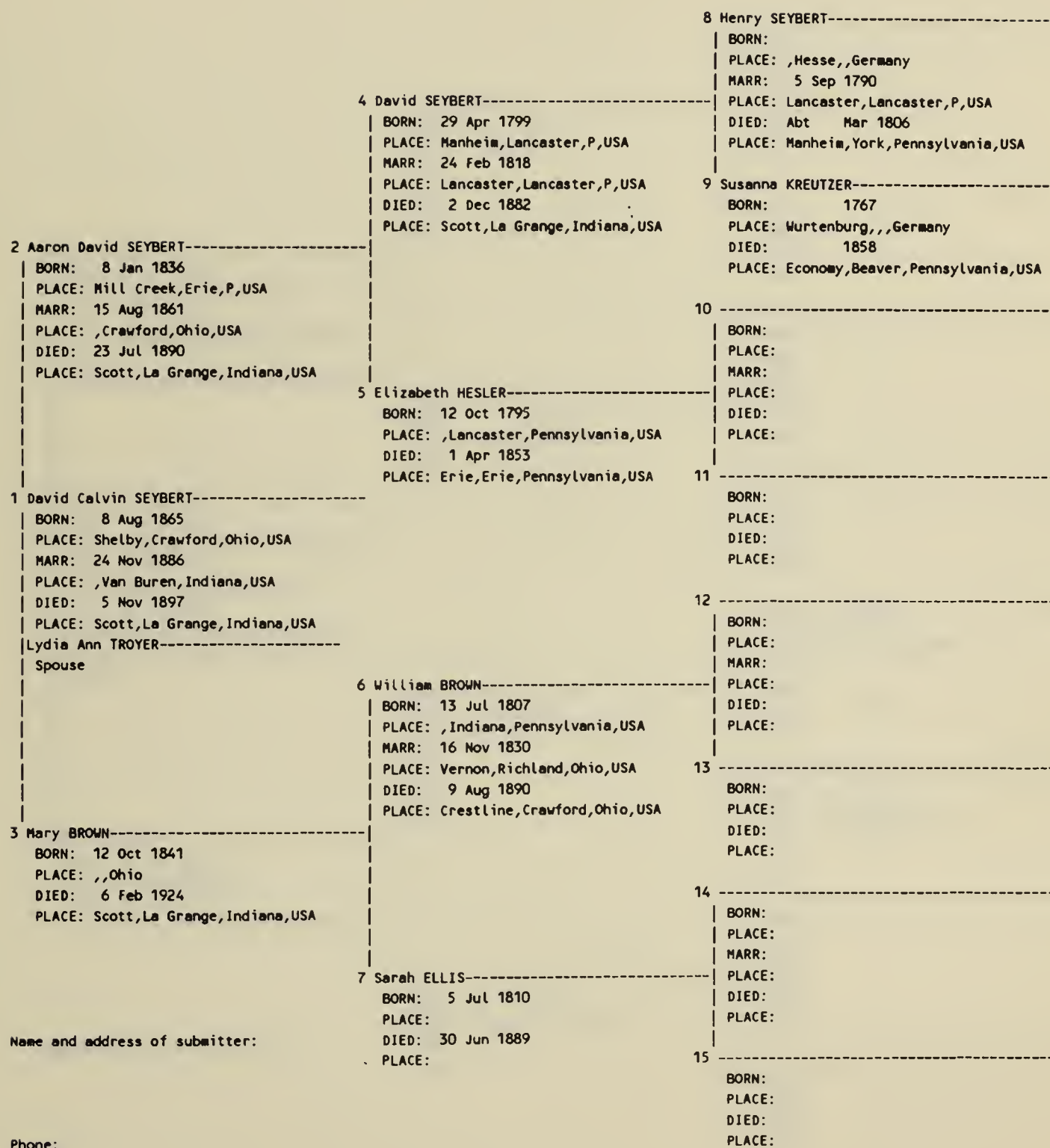


# Map of Significant Sites in Seybert History Pennsylvania





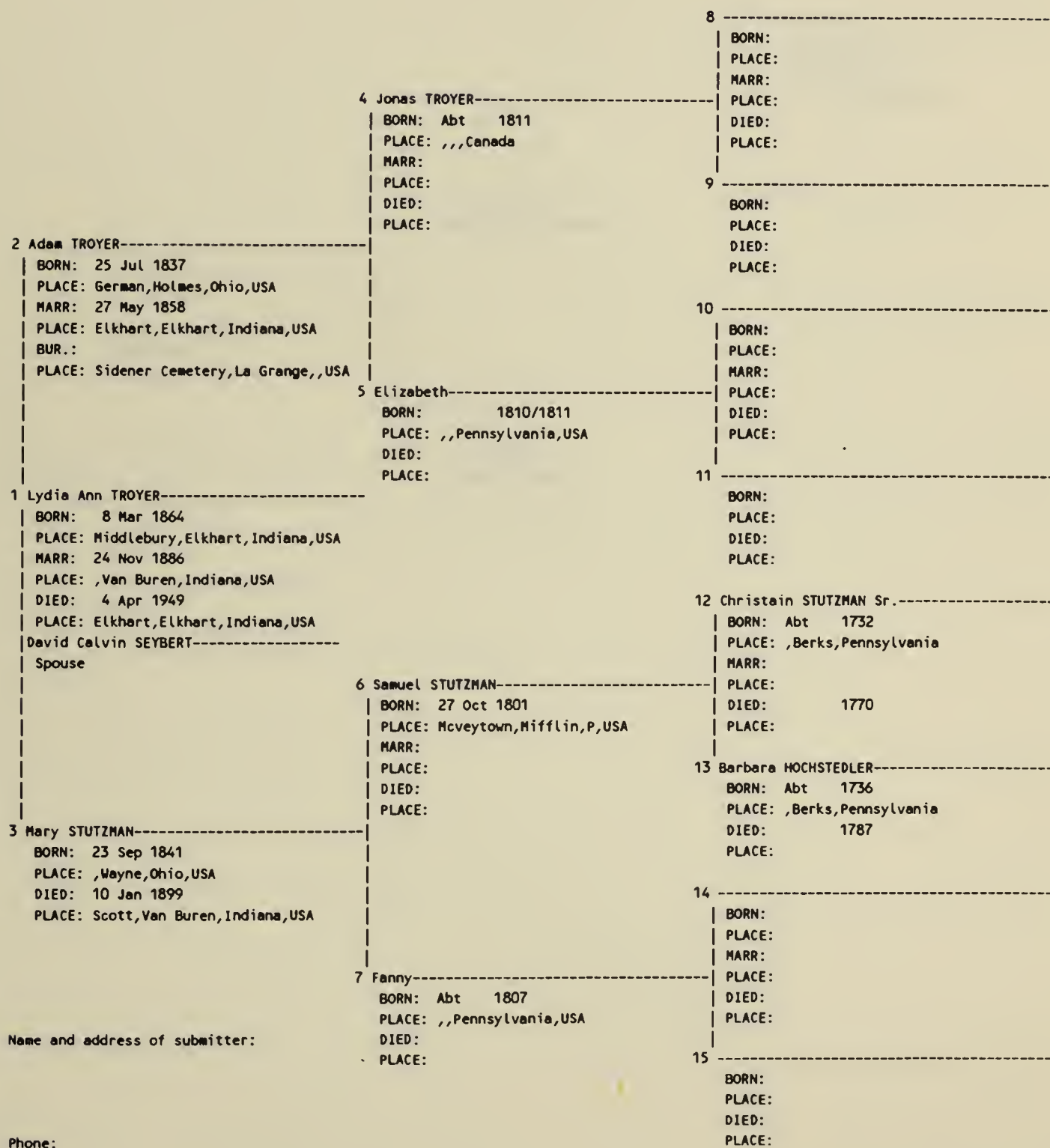
# Pedigree Chart: David Calvin Seybert





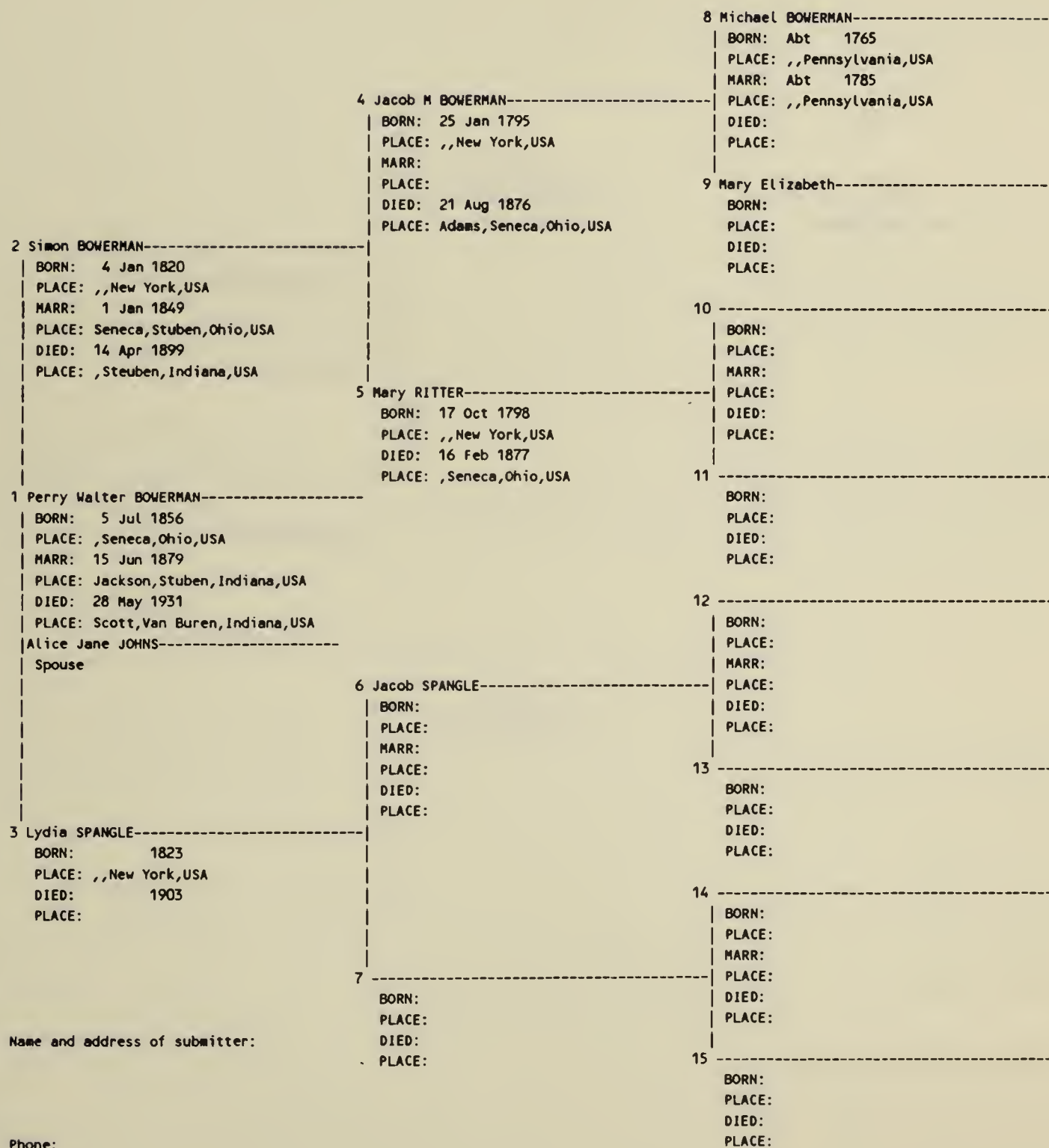


# Pedigree Chart: Lydia Ann (Troyer) Seybert



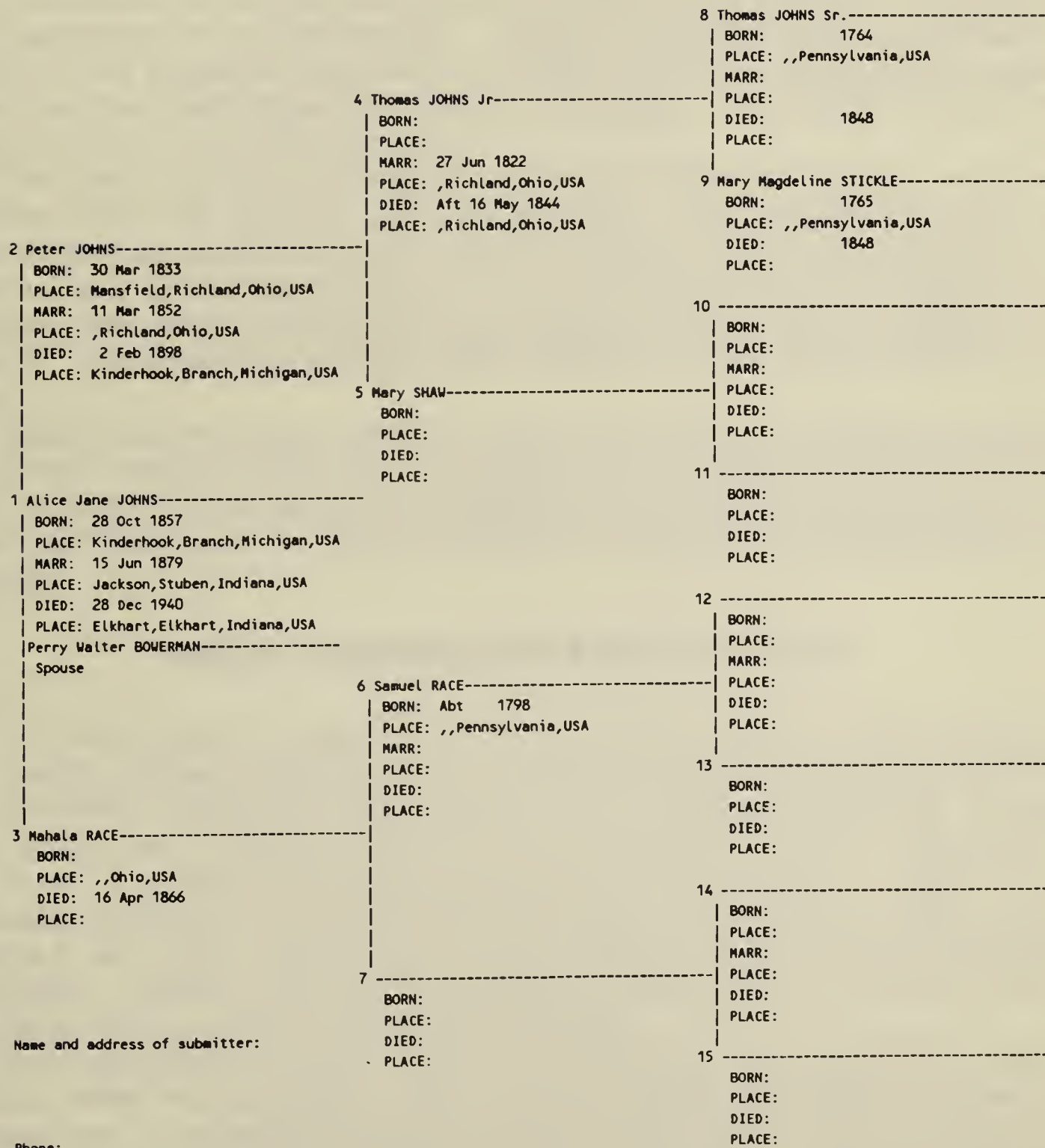


# Pedigree Chart: Perry Walter Bowerman





# Pedigree chart: Alice Jane (Johns) Bowerman







# **The American Seybert Family, Their Spouses and Children**

No story is passed around the Seybert family as often as that of the first Seybert<sup>1</sup> to come to the United States. The story of a young German mercenary who was captured at Trenton, New Jersey and stayed in the colonies, is repeated at most gatherings of his descendants. Though clouded with many unanswered questions, and doubtless elaborations, the lives of Henry and Susanna are spoken of with fondness and repeated to children of all ages. I now share with you the account of Henry and his descendants.

The history of the Seybert family is interwoven with two cultures, and many character traits that make us what we are today. The blending of traits and personalities has enabled the early American Seyberts to withstand hardships and tragedies and share triumph and joy. As America has become stronger, like tempered steel, those tribulations have blended this family into a melting pot of strength. The adversities faced by those before us are not easily identified with today.

Henrich did not become famous or, as far as is known, accomplish anything noteworthy. However, because of his teachings and foresight remembered by his sons, an account of his life can be constructed. He was able to instill values in his sons in the fifteen years he lived as a father and husband which repercussions are felt today.

## **Hessian Mercenary and American Farmer**

The early days of young Henrich Seibert remain unknown in the records of 18th century Germany and are yet to be researched. We can assume he was the son of a farmer, since later in life he became very successful at that trade. He was not a famous man; however, because of a well known son, we have knowledge of his life as a young and devoted husband, father and farmer. Much of our knowledge of Henrich's life comes from writings about his firstborn son John<sup>2</sup>. John became a well known, respected and loved bishop (the first) of the Evangelical Association. However, it was Henry's second son David, who is in the direct line of the Seybert family which is the subject of this paper.

By the end of the American Revolution, Great Britain had hired 29,867 German soldiers. When the war ended, 27,667 of these Hessian mercenaries remained on American soil. Five hundred and forty-eight had died in battle, ,652 of wounds and disease. Of the survivors is found the name of Henrich Seibert. Not all the German mercenaries who survived the war chose to return to their native country of Germany. Henrich was among the 12,554 who decided to stay and try their hands at gaining a fortune and future in this new-born country<sup>3</sup>. This is where family





tradition, supported by some presumed facts, differs from some scholarly research supported by records.

### **The Name Confusion**

In the course of research I discovered a few variations of the spelling of the name of the man who ultimately became Henry Seybert. The references cited often used different spellings when obviously referring to the same man. My research has revealed that these spelling variations are all very common among the Germans, and all are acceptable. The cause of the problem probably is that when the Germanic names became Americanized, the spelling was unsure so the writer simply spelled the name phonetically. Whether the spelling of the first name is "Henrich", "Heinrich", or "Heinrick" is of little consequence to the fact that this man eventually settled on Henry. In his will Henry spelled his last name; "Seybert" and "Sybert". Henry's wife Susanna often used both "Seibert" and "Seybert". Henry's sons used the spelling variations "Seibert" and "Seybert" in their wills and writings.

For the purposes of this project, I will use the variation of the source document. It was not until the third generation of this particular Seybert family that Henry's Grandson Aaron standardized the name to Seybert, and so it has been since<sup>4</sup>.

### **Family Tradition**

Hessian military records list a Henrich Siebert as being born in Jesberg, Hesse, Germany. When he enlisted as a Hessian soldier on August 7, 1774, he was 5 feet 3 1/2 inches tall. At the age of fifteen years Henrich cast his lot to serve as a German mercenary in the service of the King of England in the war against the American colonialists. He served in the Von Knyphauser Regiment and became a prisoner of war December 26, 1776, when George Washington's troops surprised and captured the Hessian Garrison at Trenton, New Jersey. The records show that Henrich was a private and a musketeer<sup>5</sup>. He was among 800 prisoners marched from Philadelphia to Lancaster on January 2, 1777. On June 17, 1778, he was among the 372 exchange prisoners marched back to Philadelphia.<sup>6</sup>

The British government was under obligation to pay one hundred dollars to the Prince of Hesse for each mercenary not returned to Germany. This meant that for every soldier who chose to remain in America, an interested individual paid one hundred dollars to the British Government. Therefore, former German soldiers often became indentured to their colonial benefactors. Henrich Seibert was sponsored by a Lancaster, Pennsylvania tailor named Shaffner. As required by law, Henrich worked for Shaffner as a tailor's apprentice for a period of three years in order to repay the one hundred dollars.<sup>7</sup>

### **Contradiction to Family Tradition**

There is no doubt Henrich came to North America as a Hessian soldier to fight for the King of England. Nor is there any dispute that he was captured, and remained in the new-born nation. The contradictions to Henrich's history are revealed with a closer study of the very references already cited. The same Henrich Siebert who enlisted as a soldier in Jesberg is also documented as being





wounded in November 1776 then returned to Europe in October 1783.<sup>8</sup> We know for a fact that the Henrich, who is the subject of this study stayed in the United States. Therefore, this Henrich could not be the same Henry of our ancestry. Research conducted in Jesberg, Germany revealed only one other Henrich/Heinrick, or any other variation, being born in an acceptable time-frame. That particular Henrich Siebert was born August 30, 1755 to Eckhard Siebert. However, He has an original notation made by his name that he did not go to North America, he also later married in Jesberg.<sup>9</sup>

Another disturbing problem is the question of birthdate. It is clearly recorded in the opening page in the book concerning John Seybert that Henrich came to North America when he was fifteen years of age. If the same Henrich born in Jesberg was our Henrich, the birth year of 1754 does not fit the scenario. The birth year of our Henrich must be within one or two years of 1761, if he was indeed captured at the battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776.<sup>10</sup>

A possible solution to this dilemma may be found in a letter to David Brener from M. A. Schwalm of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association Inc.<sup>11</sup> Mr. Schwalm reported that his research uncovered Johann Heinrich Seibert was born November 11, 1749 in Dudenhofen, Germany. Johann was the son of Johann Heinrich Seibert and Maria Katharina Erb. Heinrich was 5 feet, 5 and 3/8 inches tall, and was inducted on January 22, 1776 at Schlosshoff von Babenhausen, Germany.

This man served in the Grenadier Company of the Hessen Hanau Erb Prinz Regiment and arrived in Canada in 1776. He wintered in Quebec and was captured at Saratoga in October 1777. He was imprisoned near Boston; then in November 1778 marched to Charlotte, Virginia passing through the Lancaster, Pennsylvania Area. According to military records he deserted in July 1781. He may have worked his way back to Lancaster and blended into the large German population there.

The confusion surrounding Henry's early life appears to be perpetuated by one single reference: The Life and Labors of John Seybert, First Bishop of the Evangelical Organization. Published in 1888, it is not corroborated by outside evidence nor does it contain reference notes. It appears that all subsequent articles, papers, and books which mention Henry get their "facts" from that same book. The Henry who Spreng traced may have been the Henry who returned to Jesberg, and he (Spreng) was not able to discover that fact. The Hessian records used for my research have only been translated in the past few decades. This does not preclude the possibility that Spreng may be correct and the records in Jesberg had been destroyed, not discovered in the course of this research, or simply not written.

## **The Indisputable Henry Seybert**

As the reader can see, the facts behind the early life of Henrich (Heinrich) are very clouded. Was his first name Henrich or Heinrich? Did he spell his name "Seibert" or "Siebert." Was he indeed captured at the Battle of Trenton or did he desert? What was his age when he enlisted, was it fifteen, or not? These are





questions which have yet to be researched. The answers are evasive, and the problem compounded by the lack of some records and the destruction of others.

There is no doubt that our fore-father came to North America as a Hessian soldier, fought in the war and opted to stay in the new-born nation. He later, most likely, worked for a man named Shaffner after the war. Mr. Shaffner most likely was a tailor and Henry probably did work for him and continued the work for quite some time. This is evidenced in Henry's will (see Appendix 1, A Transcription of the Will of Henry Seybert). In the introductory statement Henry identified himself as "Taylor", this may be a variation of "tailor." Further, Mr. Shaffner may have paid the one hundred dollar fee, to a "public committee," in Lancaster for the release of Henrich from a prisoner status and not to the British Government.<sup>12</sup> Research continues to clarify these facts.

The indisputable facts are --- Shortly after being released from his debt to Shaffner, Henrich met Susanna Kreutzer. Susanna was born November 11, 1767 in the Kingdom of Wurttemberg, which is today part of Germany (see Appendix 2, 18th Century Wurttemberg, Germany). Susanna arrived at the port of Philadelphia, late 1771. When she first set foot in the colonies, Susanna was a four-year-old German immigrant, and an orphaned girl. Her father, Stephen Kreutzer, died en route across the Atlantic Ocean. The young Susanna arrived in America with no family and no hope. As of yet, information on her mother is to be discovered. As providence would have it, a good citizen of Lebanon County took her to his home, where she became a member of his family.<sup>13</sup> So far research has failed to uncover his name. It can be safely assumed Susanna's adopted parents were German or spoke German. This is evidenced by the fact that when her own children were in religious training they were taught in German. Apparently German was the first language of choice in the Seybert household, or was at least used on a daily basis.

Henry<sup>14</sup> married the twenty-three-year-old Susanna Kreutzer, on September 15, 1790. The Rev. Henry Ernest Muhlenberg of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, performed the marriage. The couple then began life on a farm in Rapho Township (present village of Sporting Hill), one mile west of the Borough of Manheim.<sup>15</sup> Henry and Susanna made their home on what became known as "The Seybert Farm." The original home was made of logs and still stands today. The logs, however, have long since been covered by other exterior materials. In 1796, Henry added to the farm a brick and stone barn, as well as other buildings. To this day, a brick with the date "1796" carved into it remains visible on the barn wall.

The Seybert farm has a history of its own and plays an important part in the history of the early Seybert family. The farm that provided a home for the new family also caused the destruction of that family. The deed to the farm has remained undiscovered and therefore can not shed light as to how, why or when Henry Seybert acquired it. However, by the time of Henry's death in 1806<sup>16</sup>, the farm had grown from 56 acres to 107 acres

The first son, John was born July 7, 1791<sup>17</sup> and second son, David on April 29, 1799,<sup>18</sup> both in Manheim, Pennsylvania. Two other sons, Christian and Henry, born after David, died before maturity (see Appendix 3, Family Group Sheet of Henry and





Susanna Seybert). John often wrote of his family and testified they worked together on their farm and lived happily. The farm prospered and grew and Henry added many new buildings on the property. Also, being a good businessman, Henry invested money in mortgages which increased the family holdings by interests earned.<sup>19</sup>

As were most members of the German Community of Rapho Township, Henry and Susanna were members of the German Lutheran Church. The Family was religious, prayed regularly, and Henry and Susanna sincerely tried to bring their children up in that belief. When the children reached the age of seven, they began German Lutheran catechismal instructions to improve on the children's religious learning. These instructions were taught in German, ensuring that the boys held on to the cultural German background of their parents. John, fifteen at the time of his father's death, had received many more years of this instruction than David, who was eight when Henry died. This perhaps accounts for the different routes each took in their lives. All indications are that David's regularly scheduled religious training ended sometime between Henry's death and the desertion by Susanna. John attended no religious services for three years after his mother deserted him and his brother.

Though active in the Lutheran Church, the Seyberts remained unconvinced the church followed correct principles. In pursuit of a more correct way of worship, the Seyberts began holding well-attended, non-denominational prayer meetings at their farm. Because of this break from the mainstream practices, the Seyberts were on the receiving end of some persecutions. These meetings marked the beginning of the Evangelical Ministries of the oldest son, John. After more searching, Henry and Susanna began attending meetings of a new sect known as the United Brethren in Christ.<sup>20</sup> The early religious teachings of his parents fostered John's entrance into a life of religious circuit riding. Recordings of his life, his teachings, and travels provide valuable family insights. David on the other hand, did not follow this religious road, and continued the life of a farmer.<sup>21</sup>

Henry and Susanna were on different ends of the discipline spectrum. Though a good provider, Henry was short tempered and quick to deliver harsh discipline. His son John wrote:

My father was a fiery soul and was on many occasions unable to control his violent temper. At times, he would be overcome with anger, so that he did things which hurt him terribly afterwards and for which he would be deeply sorry. Often he became so angry with me that he would beat me unmercifully which would arouse my temper and spite. If my father would have told me how much it hurt him to punish me for my misdemeanors, probably with God's help, he would have succeeded in driving the devil out of me, but his violence made me worse as time went on.<sup>22</sup>

Susanna was the tender and understanding Mother who tried to soften her husband's blows. Of his mother, John wrote:





Quiet and tender and melancholy, she suffered, especially when God's spirit worked in her heart. She tried to influence my better nature with all her love, and when I was still a little child, she taught me to pray.<sup>23</sup>

After living an industrious life, Henry died in Manheim in 1806. Depending on Henry's actual birthdate, which is uncertain at this time, he was most likely between the ages of forty-seven and fifty-seven. His thirty-nine-year-old wife Susanna and two sons, ages fifteen and eight, were left without a husband or father. Henry had his will written as he lay in his deathbed.<sup>24</sup> Henry must have had confidence in the farming training he had given his boys. Henry willed the farm to his wife, and then to his oldest son John when he reached age twenty-one. After that, John was to provide a home and income for his mother. The executors of the will were Abraham Metz and Jacob Shoemaker. In 1814, these executors petitioned the Court to make John and David the legal owners of the farm, which the court granted. In 1820 John decided to devote his life to the ministry. At the age of twenty-one on March 29, 1820 David bought out his brother's half and became sole owner of the farm<sup>25</sup> (see Appendix 1, A Transcription of the Will of Henry Seybert). On April 1, 1829 David sold the 107 acre farm to Jacob Kinsh for \$302 and moved to Erie, Pennsylvania.<sup>26</sup>

## **The Pennsylvania German Community**

Prior to the American revolution, Pennsylvania had become the center for German settlement in North America and Lancaster had the largest of that population. By 1790 about 38% of Pennsylvania's population was of German descent. The strong influx of German immigration continued into the 19th century. Many of the locations which are today predominately populated by citizens of German ancestry were first planned for German colonization by the Germans. In some areas, the German immigrants bought up large areas of land for colonization by Germans, thus ensuring a German settlement. These Germans were often referred to as "Pennsylvania Dutch." This however was incorrect, except for those who had come from the Netherlands. The Germans were more correctly referred to as "Pennsylvania Deutsch" or German, not Dutch. The former became the most common term used and eventually became a generic term for all who spoke German.<sup>27</sup>

Most of the German community were Lutheran and farmers. They seemed to form their own communities and even migrate to different areas of the country together. This accounts for the difficulties the Seyberts had with the others when they broke from the popular religious teachings and also the strong religious background the sons had. This strong sense of belonging and community may also account for the direction Susanna took very soon after the death of her husband.

## **Possible Origin of "Seybert"**

The origin of the Seybert name might be better presented at the beginning of this work. However, after consideration, I felt it was best to present it after the





discussion of German immigration because the analysis presented requires assimilation of information contained in that section.

As the reader will find, the spelling of Seybert was not standardized until the third generation of North American Seybert. Prior to that time, variants such as Seibert, Siebert, and Sibert were used. Though confusing, the variants have not yet posed an impossible problem during the conduct of research for this work.

The origin of the name is most definitely German composed of two elements *sigi* meaning victory and *berht* meaning bright or famous. Variations are: Siegbert, Segebrecht, Sagebrecht, Siebrecht, Zieprecht and Zyprecht. Associated names related in origin and from the same root but not necessarily of the same blood line are: Seiber(t), Sibber, Seg(e)barth, Sagerbarth, and Seebarth. Several variations of Low German which are associated by a paternal ancestor are: Segbers, Siebers, Siebertz, Seibers, Seibertz, Zeiberts, and Sibbers(en).<sup>28</sup>

Low German refers to that dialect which was spoken in northern Germany, and often involves some Dutch. Low German split into Low Franconian, which became Dutch (including Flemish) and Low Saxon, which has a three-stage evolution: Old Saxon or Old Low German (AD 800-1200) which evolved into Middle Low German (1200-1600), which in turn became modern Low German or Plattdeutsch (1600- ). High German subdivides into Middle German and Upper German.

Geographically, the dividing line between Low German and High German (the Benrath line) is located near the Dusseldorf-Magdeburg parallel. Mainly concentrated in the north of Germany to include part of what is today the Netherlands up to the North Sea.<sup>29</sup>

Looking at the variants of the spelling, the name as we have it today could be an evolution of any one of those. Taking into account that the previous settlers in eastern North America referred to the German speakers as Pennsylvanian Dutch, it is easy to make the connection that the origin of the name may have been one of the Low German variations. The study and research into matter will be very confusing and require many more hours. I hope to someday clear up this matter. For the purpose of this work, I think it is safe to assume that Henry Seybert's parents used one or more of the spellings: Seibert, Siebert, and Sibert

## **The Disintegration of the Family**

Henry was a very practical man and had foresight to provide for Susanna in his will. His intentions were for his sons to take care of their mother for the rest of her life. He was thorough enough to itemize all the amounts of goods to be used for her care and comfort. The only catches were that she was not to remarry, nor could she sell the farm. Henry was very clear that he wanted his sons to have the farm when they were old enough to handle the responsibilities.<sup>30</sup> Due to a strange twist in circumstances, things did not unfold as intended by her late husband. Remaining true to her husband's will, Susanna never did remarry. Henry's death was the beginning of the fragmentation of the family. Soon Susanna would leave the children, and the boys would go their separate ways.





About thirteen months after the death of her husband Susanna deserted her children. Several disciples of self-proclaimed religious leader, George Rapp, dropped in for a visit at the Seybert farm and Susanna soon became involved with them. Apparently the Seyberts had become known as a very friendly and hospitable family as strangers visiting their home was not unusual. It was common for Henry and Susanna to invite strangers in for a meal and conversation. A family belonging to the Harmony Society stayed in the Seybert home for a short while. Susanna then joined the Rapps, deserted the children, and went to Harmony and remained there until she moved to Economy, in Beaver County, Western Pennsylvania. The exact time that passed between the death of Henry and the desertion of the boys is not certain. Some sources refer to one year, others thirteen months. All sources agree it was soon, probably one year to thirteen months. The boys were eight and fifteen when their mother deserted them.<sup>31</sup>

Since the provisions of the will stated the farm would remain in the family until John was of age, Susanna did not have the legal right to dispose of it. Susanna intended to give the farm and all family assets to the Rapps to fulfill what she saw as her religious duty. On March 22, 1810 Susanna presumed to give the Rapps a power of attorney to take title of the farm<sup>32</sup> (see Appendix 4, Transcription of Power of Attorney from Susanna to Fredrick Rapp). Henry had chosen well in selecting his friends Abraham Metz and Jacob Shoemaker as executors of his will. They stood by and aided the boys and prevented their mother from giving up the farm. John, much more forgiving than David, wanted to give part of the farm to their mother but David would not soften. Finally, after representatives of Rapp and Susanna made at least two trips from Harmony to Sporting Hill to negotiate for the property, David partially gave in. He allowed his brother to give an unknown amount of the Seybert property to Susanna. It is not recorded how large the settlement was, but it was probably a token amount, enough to satisfy the Rapps.<sup>33</sup> Henry must surely have taught the boys well to work and love the farm. Though only eighteen and ten years of age they remained steadfast in their determination not to lose the farm. Of special interest is David's attitude. He, at eight or nine years of age, during the initial confrontation with the Rapps, refused to give in to the pressures of the adult membership of the Harmony Society and his own mother.

## **The Harmony Society**

The Rappists, or Harmonists as they preferred, began in 1805 as a Protestant communal society. George Rapp and his adopted son Frederick founded the society. Rapp and his followers arrived from Wurttemberg, Germany and organized the Harmony Society in Butler County, Pennsylvania. The settlement later became known as Harmony. The basic teaching of the Harmonists maintained all the scattered sheep of God would eventually gather to Harmony, which would eventually become the new Jerusalem. All the faithful members of the Society would be spared from the calamities of the latter days and thus be "saved". The society began practicing a form of religious communism to include farming, brewing, milling, and spinning. The community was successful at first but soon declined. A





principal teaching required the faithful members to practice celibacy, a major factor in the ultimate demise of the society.<sup>34</sup>

Rapp's society was in desperate need of capital by the time they happened upon Susanna. By this time both Rapps had lost their religious perspective. Greed instead of religious practice had become a growing motivating force of their meetings. Rapp later established his Society in Beaver County and there developed his communal and religious ideas to a limited and successful degree. Susanna Seybert lived in Economy and died there at the age of ninety-two.<sup>35</sup> Since she professed to follow the basic beliefs of the society, so much so to abandon her children and contest her husband's will, we can believe she took the vow of celibacy seriously. This, rather than faithfulness to her late husband's will, may account for why she never remarried.<sup>36</sup>

After Susanna left the farm and her two children behind, the boys were soon helped by a friend of Henry. That same friend, Abraham Metz, one of the executors of Henry's will, ran the farm and paid the taxes for the children. Later he probably owned the farm. John felt a calling other than farming and by 1819 he was an itinerant preacher. David remained and continued working the farm.

Susanna never came back to Sporting Hill nor did she ever see David after his eighth year.<sup>37</sup> Bishop John Seybert's diary tells that he often visited his mother; perhaps out of love or perhaps in the hope that as a preacher he could redeem her. David was very bitter towards his mother and never forgave her for deserting them. John recalls in his writings that David never spoke of her again. John and David remained close and met as often as John's travels allowed.

We can not know what motivated Susanna to do what she did, but in fairness to her, perhaps she felt a need to start a new life. At the age of 39 she had the memories of a dead husband and two dead infants, and possibly she began her search for more in a new life with the Harmony Society. She was herself an orphan at an early age and had only a vague memory of her father. Her lot in this life tested and tried her, possibly beyond her limits, and when the followers of George Rapp visited her she may have felt a sense of companionship. There were German speaking people, from Wurttemberg, with whom she felt welcome. Regardless of possible motivations the Harmonists treated her like one of their own. She surely was a lonely and vulnerable woman. Susanna was not alone in desertion of a family. John recorded several marriage partners divided because one joined the Rapps.<sup>38</sup>

## **David and John Without Mother**

David remained a religious man and followed the teachings of his parents. Though not as fully converted as his brother, David worked very hard with his hands, was industrious and avoided recklessness and idling. John recorded that this brother was often led into "sinful indulgences by evil companions".<sup>39</sup> The references make no mention concerning the acts which John regards as "sinful". However, taking into consideration the devoutly religious life John led, he knew he did not agree with David's choice of friends and activities. This insight clearly





shows that the lives of Henry's sons took separate paths. Both are remembered as being hard workers, practicing what they preached, and remaining true to their father's wishes. Perhaps more importantly, they remained close friends and shared a heartfelt brotherhood.

John had spent a good portion of his life preaching and doing good for all with whom he came in contact. He died on the preaching circuit in Bellevue, Ohio on January 4, 1860 and was buried in Flat Rock, Ohio. Though he had countless friends, there were no relatives present at his funeral. He is remembered by the monument to his ministry in Sporting Hill, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and a display at the Evangelical Theological Seminary Building in Naperville, Illinois featuring John's wagon.

### **David, Second Son of Henry and Susanna**

After David sold the 107 acre farm on April 1, 1829 he moved to Erie, Pennsylvania.<sup>40</sup> While in Erie he met and married Elizabeth Hessler.<sup>41</sup> To this marriage were born eight children: John, Mariah, Magdaline, Aaron, Christian, and Elizabeth (see Appendix 5, Family Group Sheet of David and Elizabeth Seybert). David and Elizabeth had two children who died in infancy. We know one of these was a girl, the sex of the other is unknown.<sup>42</sup> All of the children except John were born in Erie, he was born in Lancaster. All the children married and stayed in the Erie area, except Aaron. For unknown reasons Aaron moved to Scott, Indiana.

Aaron's move to Scott is one of the most significant relocations of this family. This move marked the beginning of the Seybert history in the northern Indiana area. In turn, it set the stage for four more generations of Seyberts to grow up in the Scott area.<sup>43</sup> Elizabeth died April 1, 1853 at the age of fifty-seven. David, being alone moved to live with Aaron in Scott. David died December 2, 1882 at Scott, at the age of eighty-three and is buried in the Sidener cemetery in La Grange, Indiana<sup>44</sup> (see Appendix 6, Transcription of Will of David Seybert).

It is interesting to follow where David lived at the times the census was taken: 1840 - in his home in Erie, Pennsylvania, 1850 - in his home in Erie, 1860 - with Noah Hershey in Erie. Noah was the husband of Mariah, the oldest of David's daughters. 1870 - in La Grange, Indiana with Magdaline Davidson. Magdaline was David's daughter who married Nathaniel Davidson. In 1880 the census recorded David in La Grange living at his son, Aaron's home.<sup>45</sup>

### **La Grange, Indiana; Home to Seybert Families**

Four generations of the Seybert family were closely linked to the county of La Grange, Indiana. It was in La Grange where three generations were born, raised families and died. The history of La Grange is intermingled with the account of the Seybert family; the two are inseparably connected. To better understand the lives of the early Seyberts, we must also study and understand the early history of the





land on which they lived. Following is a brief depiction of the lands which they called home.

To the far northern part of Indiana between the counties of Elkhart and Steuben lies the county of La Grange. Composed of 384 square miles, La Grange is about 900 feet above sea level. Consistent with most of that area of the country, the county is divided into townships. To be exact, eleven townships make up La Grange: Van Buren, Lima, Greenfield, Newbury, Clay, Bloomfield, Springfield, Eden, Clearspring, Johnson and Milford. If one could hover a few yards above the center of the county, he could see most of the nearly level 256,000 acres. To prevent boredom, the creator allowed for occasional rolling hills and bluffs to break the plains. To the north of La Grange lie the farm lands of southern Michigan.

La Grange is characterized by four distinct and often severe seasons. The summers of northern Indiana often have temperatures which reach into the high 90's. The winters bring heavy snows which leave a white blanket on the ground for most of the season. A long growing term is ensured because rainfall is plentiful, and the melting snow provides water for the springs.

Numerous streams and creeks span the county, but the Pigeon River is the only notable body of running water. It flows through the county northwesterly, and receives most of the drainage from numerous creeks. The creeks which feed into the Pigeon River are Turkey Creek, Fly Creek, Buck Creek, and Shipshewana Creek. All the creeks of La Grange are intermittent and have not been depended on by the residents as permanent sources of water. The south and southwest portions of the county are drained by the Elkhart river, which flows in the Pigeon river, which drains into Lake Michigan.

The county of La Grange and specifically the village of Scott are characterized by a covering of dense forest, thick underbrush and prickly ash. A variety of shrubbery and briars intersperse throughout the area. The pleasant and quiet atmosphere of Scott is enhanced by the wide variety of trees and green shrubs.

The county seat of La Grange is the city of LaGrange. A small, beautiful town, it has not grown rapidly and perhaps even resists change. In 1880 the population of LaGrange was not more than 1,400; in 1890 it had 1,784; in 1900 it had declined to 1,703. The U.S. census of 1910 listed LaGrange as 1,772. As of 1989 the City of LaGrange is noted to have a population of 2,164 and La Grange county as 25,550. The village of Scott was originally settled in 1833.

By a quick perusal through the history books of the LaGrange and Scott areas, it is easy to ascertain the population has always been almost totally white. The literature I have read make no reference to citizens of black or hispanic descent. The only time Indians are mentioned is in reference to the previous owners of the land or when Indians visited settlements for whiskey. In the pictorial histories there are no photos of any ethnic groups other than white.

The city of LaGrange and village of Scott share a common beginning. Both were settled because of the advantages of building the saw and flouring mills, powered by streams of water, on the banks of the Pigeon River. This industry prompted more settlers into the area, and its communities grew. The mills are not





working today; the residents have become largely dependent on the agricultural industry of corn, soy beans, and wheat.

The logging mills were the first attraction in the early stages of growth for both LaGrange and Scott. Though dependent mainly on farming, the mercantile industry, which eventually grew, supported the farmers. This farming in turn provided the necessity for the mills and grain elevators. The economies depended on all of these to survive, and each was mutually reliant. I feel this lead to the close-knit communities which exist to this day. For these reasons the individual citizens feel they are an important part of the community, and each one contributes to the survival of the way of life they all love.

The schools of the area are spoken of with great fondness and are praised in histories and poetry. Large portions of the history books are dedicated to the schools of La Grange. Of note is the old Scott schoolhouse, built in 1900 and in continual use until 1960. Though not a large building, the two-floor, red brick school served the community for over half a century. When the old Scott schoolhouse was torn down, the red bricks were distributed to the alumni, testimonies that the owner of the brick was a part of the community when the old Scott schoolhouse was standing.

The people of La Grange lived a simple life full of enjoyment. Large gatherings of friends at local centers provided much of the entertainment. Gatherings commonly included meetings of all sorts for clubs ranging from ladies church auxiliaries to the boys gathering at the swimming hole. If one wanted to visit a larger city, he chose between the more upbeat Sturgis, Michigan, only 25 miles from Scott, or Chicago, which took the best part of a day to travel to.

All things considered, the yesteryears of LaGrange embody the ideal that people search for today. Progress has come to LaGrange, but it has not taken the heavy toll that urbanization has cost other communities. After visiting LaGrange several times, I have grown attached to it. It is still common to see children playing in the river much the same as their Great Grandfathers did. The court house sports a shiny artillery piece and hand polished brass plaques. The city center, highlighted by the courthouse, look like a scene out of the old "Andy Griffith Show."

Many of my forefathers grew up in La Grange county and enjoyed a life of pleasant surroundings, and kind and caring people. The descendants of those same people continue to hold tight to the life style of kindness which they learned from their fathers. As one generation passes away, the next carries on, changing ever so slightly the legacy of hospitality, kindness and dedication to their way of life.

### **Scott (Van Buren) Village: A Vital Village in the Seybert History**

To be complete, a history of the Seyberts must include information on Scott because of strong family ties to that Village. The Village of Scott is in the northern and almost central part of Van Buren Township of La Grange County, Indiana.

The Village was originally named Van Buren, after the then President-elect of the United States. The township of Van Buren had been renamed to Scott by 1837.





Van Buren was first settled in 1829 by Jesse Huntsman, before the government opened the land to settlers in 1831 for the price of \$1.25 per acre. As settlers moved into the township the land quickly became a desirable location because the Pigeon River ran through it. The Pigeon River provided an ideal location for a sawmill and in 1833 the Martin Brothers bought 280 acres of land and set up a sawmill. This mill remained in operation for 133 years. Old timers of the area still talk fondly of the old mill in Scott. The county of La Grange and the township of Scott are characterized by a covering of dense forest, thick underbrush and prickly ash. There is a variety of shrubbery and briars which are interspersed throughout the area. The township has a wide variety of trees throughout.

Like most small towns and villages in America, Scott had its own school. The first school was a log house donated to the Village by Mr. Daniel Pierce in 1837. Other buildings, usually donated houses, were converted into school buildings, all simply named Scott School and Scott High School. By far the most beloved school was the two-floor, red brick school built in 1900. Though not a large building, it served the community well for more than half a century. The first graduating class, the class of 1902, had two students. By 1955 the school had grown with the community and that year the last graduating class had 16 students. This school will always have a special place in the hearts of the students who attended it.

In the early days the new settlers brought much of their homeland culture with them, including religious practices. The Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1834 in Scott remained the only church building in Scott until 1868. By 1883, the Lutherans erected a building and collected a well established congregation in Scott. These two religious bodies have remained the mainstream religious entities in Scott.

Directly across the river from the old mill is a lily pond which quickly became one of the most popular areas of Scott, especially for the children. From the settlement days until about the time that the mill burned, this pond created many memories captured in history books of the area. The people who grew up with the pond as part of their childhood like to tell stories about it.<sup>46</sup> Because this hole held such deep meaning to all the boys of Scott, the sons of Aaron surely visited it often.<sup>47</sup>

As one travels through Scott and stop to talk to its citizens, he will get the impression time has stood still. Though never having a population over 500, the village has progressed while maintaining an old small town atmosphere. The citizens feel a deep affection for their village which is shared by young and old alike.<sup>48</sup>

### **The Ministry of Bishop John Seybert**

The Evangelical Association which John became involved with had its beginnings in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1759. Founded by Jacob Albright, after dissatisfaction with the Lutherans and Methodists, originally as a German alternative to the predominately non-German churches. For three years after the desertion by his mother John stopped all religious attendance. One day he went to





a religious gathering and heard a sermon by Matthias Betz who was then preaching in Lancaster for the Evangelical Association. Immediately, John joined the Association and was soon licensed as an authorized "exhorter" by the presiding elder, Reverend John Dreisbach.

John's first chosen vocation was not preaching or farming, but coopering.<sup>49</sup> Soon after the death of his father, while Abraham Metz was helping with the farm, John learned the trade of cooperage from, and worked for, Jacob Fahr in Manheim. He continued this until he became an active full-time preacher.

In 1819, at the age of twenty-six John gave up his job as a cooper and began work for the church. His first job in the church was to conduct classes in Mount Joy and Manheim in Lancaster county.

John did not tolerate extravagance, dressing very simply, with a coat buttoned up to the neck and corduroy trousers, he owned no special preaching clothes. He took care of his own clothing and was a very clean, organized, man. He accepted only one hundred dollars a year from the church and used much of that to help others. By the time of his death his own estate was almost non-existent because he had given money to neighbors in Manheim to repay their loans. He spoke often of a plain and simple life. John insisted that Evangelical churches were to have no tower, no bells, and no debt. He was not without enemies, and they often attacked his character. During 1834 he was accused of cheating his brother out of a sum of money. His only counter to this was to ask his brother for a letter disputing the charge, which David was pleased to send.

John's travels often took him through Economy where he visited his aging mother. The last time he saw her was January 9, 1857. She was then old and feeble and died fifteen months later. He often wished he could convert her but never succeeded.

During 1839, Jacob Albright died and John was elected the First Bishop of the Evangelical Association. This put a heavy load of leadership on him but he still insisted to remain on the preaching circuit. It was at this same time that he began distributing devotional literature to those he preached to. John recognized that the further west he traveled, the more scarce books became, so he decided to provide the people with literature, at the same time spreading his message.

His travels took him as far north as Niagara, New York and west into Illinois. Keeping meticulous diaries, he recorded all meetings and miles he traveled. Later in life friends recommended he travel by train. He insisted on traveling by horse because the trains would not allow him to see his friends along the way. In his thirty-nine year career as a minister, John traveled 175,000 miles by horse or buggy, preached 9,850 times, made 46,000 pastoral calls, held about 8,000 prayer meetings and visited 10,000 sick and afflicted people.

On December 29, 1859 John arrived at the home of his friend Isaac Parker near Bellevue, Ohio. He was exhausted from a long trip and intended only a short rest. On January 4, 1860 John died at his friend's home and was buried at Flatrock, Seneca county, Ohio.<sup>50</sup>

All references to John make it clear that he was a sincere preacher and that he practiced what he preached. He left many friends who mourned his passing.





Though he was successful in converting many people, his wish, which was never realized, was to convert his mother. Despite this disappointment, he died a content and happy man.

## Aaron and Mary

Aaron David Seybert was born January 8, 1836 to David and Elizabeth Seybert in Mill Creek Township of Erie, Pennsylvania, where he spent most of his childhood. Between 1850 and 1870 Aaron's family moved to La Grange, Indiana. In La Grange, David bought and maintained a very successful farm, near Scott.<sup>51</sup>

During 1861, Aaron made his way to Crawford County, Ohio, where he met Mary Brown. They were married on August 15, 1861.<sup>52</sup> Little is known of Mary other than a George Brown swore her of eligible age for marriage and that she was born October 12, 1841 in Ohio. It is uncertain what the relationship was between Mary and this George Brown.

Mary was the daughter of William and Sarah Brown. William was born in Indiana County, Pennsylvania on July 13, 1807, and settled in Vernon Township of Crawford County Ohio in July 1830. William and Sarah were married November 16, 1830. To that marriage were born ten children, four sons and six daughters, of whom two sons and four daughters were still living, when William died August 9, 1890. The other children, two sons and two daughters, died in infancy. Wife, Sarah, died June 30, 1889. William had the distinction of being one of the first pioneers of Richland County. He is credited with the clearing and cultivation of some of the first unbroken forest in that area.<sup>53</sup>

After their marriage, Aaron and Mary lived in Hill County, Illinois long enough to have their first child, Sarah. The family then made a move to Shelby, Crawford County, Ohio, where the next three children, David Calvin, William, and Frank, were born. David was a twin; his twin brother William died at birth (see Figure 7, Family Group Sheet of Aaron and Mary). So far, research has not uncovered positively why Aaron moved to Ohio and then to Scott.

After Frank's birth in April 1867, Aaron and his family moved to Scott. In Scott, Aaron took up farming and learned the trade of a joiner.<sup>54</sup> While in La Grange, Harry, Ida, Mary, and Carl were born into the family. Aaron became involved in the community and served as a justice of the peace for Van Buren Township from 1886 until probably 1890.<sup>55</sup>

Aaron died at home on July 23, 1890 at the age of fifty-nine. Family records indicate he suffered a ruptured appendix.<sup>56</sup> Aaron died without a will and left his wife with the burden of holding a public auction to dispose of his personal effects. The auction was held on Friday, August 29, 1890 at his home (see Figure 8, Record of Estate of Aaron Seybert). The inventory of the goods include livestock, equipment needed for farming, carts wagons, and sleighs, a large number of wood working tools, grains, and various other tools.<sup>57</sup> This list of his property shows he was a very successful farmer and a fair joiner; his tools and assets were numerous. Despite this, Mary was left with quite a debt to pay. The auction provided a total of \$7,166.34, of which \$6,227.28 was paid out to debtors. The remaining \$939.06 was





divided up among his heirs, with his wife receiving \$313.02. Though talented and well supplied, Aaron had not been able to stay out of debt.

## LYDIA AND DAVID

Aaron and Mary's son David married Lydia Ann Troyer on November 24, 1886 in Van Buren, La Grange County, Indiana. The marriage was performed by E. W. Erick, a Methodist Episcopal Pastor.<sup>58</sup> Like his father and grandfather before him, David took up farming in that same county. However, unlike them, he did not own a farm. David was a share cropper, which proved not to be monetarily beneficial. To this family were born six children: Alta, Fred, a female infant that died at two months, Bertha, Wilbert, and Arthur<sup>59</sup> (see Figure 9, Family Group Sheet of David and Lydia).

Mary was the daughter of Adam and Mary (Stutzman) Troyer of La Grange, both of whom were Ohio born. Lydia was the second child of four and was born March 8, 1864 in Middlebury, Indiana.<sup>60</sup>

An immediate and tragic twist of events changed the lives of this family forever. David died suddenly November 5, 1887 at the age of thirty-three. His obituary records that "David Seybert of Scott dropped dead last Friday night in Truesdall Bros. store at Shipshewana." While sitting at the counter talking with friends, suddenly he fell from the chair, dead. His doctor had told him that he would die suddenly, but no one expected it to happen at such a young age. David's obituary reports the cause of death as "rheumatism of the heart." This close-knit community realized the dire straits in which the family was thrust. David's obituary indicates the true circumstances in which the family found themselves:

Mr Seybert was 33 years old. He leaves a wife and 5 young children who have the sympathy of the whole community. May the Lord raise up helpers for the bereaved wife and 5 fatherless children. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these little ones ye have done it unto me".<sup>61</sup>

Family tradition has it that this obituary did not go unheeded, as people did donate money to the family after the funeral.

David's death left Lydia widowed with five small children: Alta age ten, Fred age eight, Bertha age five, Wilbert age two, and Arthur age one. Lydia most likely moved her family in with her parents, Adam and Mary Troyer, of La Grange. This single tragic event changed the course of the lives of Seyberts who would descend from David. From the days of Henry through three generations to his grandson Aaron, all had been successful farmers. David tried his hand at farming but did not prove to be as successful as his forefathers. With the early death of David, the male Seyberts through his line did not again center their lives and livelihood around a farm.<sup>62</sup>





Lydia then faced a life of hard work and trials which few can fully appreciate. She hired out as domestic laborer cleaning houses and doing odd jobs wherever she could find them. Not long after David's death, the oldest child of the family, Alta, went to live with local doctor named Amos J. Hostettler in Middlebury, Van Buren Township. Alta probably went to live with Dr. Hostettler to lighten the sudden burden put on Lydia. She had a good life and remained in continual touch with the family. Alta graduated from Middlebury High School in 1906. She went on to complete one more year of school, after which she taught school in Middlebury for one year. She married in June of 1908 and did not teach again.<sup>63</sup>

This research has yet to uncover relatives, or anyone else, can recall Lydia ever speaking one word of her late husband. Though she was present for the birth of all her grandchildren, not once is it recalled that she mentioned the child shared any attribute with David. Because of this, most of the early history of their marriage and David's life are lost. Lydia never appeared to be bitter or angry at David for leaving her as he did; perhaps she preferred to keep her thoughts and feelings to herself. She led a simple life and did not wear colorful clothing. She kept herself well groomed, always with her hair in a bun on the back of her head and no makeup.

Obviously Lydia took no time for self pity or concentration of her own plight. She was a strong woman and went straight to work, allowing no time for hobbies or relaxation. Her focus was on providing for the family. She mended their clothes and made all their clothing that she could. She handled all the hardships with perseverance and lost her personal troubles in the care and love of her children. By providing day care in her own home she produced some income while not neglecting the welfare of her own children. The only regular rest, which Lydia took from work was to attend the Methodist Church in Howe. Lydia was often the last one to leave the church after activities, to ensure it was well cleaned.<sup>64</sup>

In the meantime, her brother Chauncy hired on as a fireman in Duluth, Minnesota. At the age of thirty-four, on December 20, 1901, Chauncy died of pneumonia. He had named Lydia as the beneficiary on his life insurance policy. The insurance money provided Lydia with enough money to buy the house now known as 404 Grant street in Shipshewana, and moved her family out of her parents' home. By then Fred was twelve years old and in the eighth grade. Fred quit school that year and began to work out of the house to help with the family finances.<sup>65</sup>

### **A Short Stay in Arkansas**

The Seyberts somehow became acquainted with a man named A. G. Deutsche, an early 20th century style entrepreneur in agricultural innovations. He had ideas of raising rice in different parts of the country; his first attempt was in Kankakee, Illinois. His plans became known to the Seyberts, and Lydia must have recognized an opportunity for work. The family was very much in need of money, and each opportunity to work had to be taken. In hopes of helping the family, Fred went alone to Illinois with Deutsche. The actual area which were marshes at the time were closer to the townships of Momence and Aroma, the former being about





ten miles to the northeast of Kankakee, and the latter three miles to the southeast.<sup>66</sup> Fred was eighteen years old at that time and a major contributor for the family. After a short time, the farming ventures in Illinois failed, so Deutsche set his sights on some drained land in Arkansas which he thought was suitable for rice farming. Probably in May 1910, at the age of twenty-one, Fred and the family minus Alta went to Arkansas with Deutsche. Alta was twenty-one and married, and stayed in LaGrange working for Dr. Hostettler. She had married Harry Orton Sigler on June 4, 1908.<sup>67</sup>

The family become settled at the Deutsche farm near Stuttgart, Arkansas. When Fred became seriously ill with the measles, the doctor advised Lydia to move the family back to Shipshewana for his recovery. On November 25, 1910 there was a public auction at the "Seibert Place"; however, the sale bill is in the name of A. G. Deutsche. The receipts for rent and repairs on the house in Shipshewana verifies that Lydia and the family were in Arkansas from May 1910 to December 1910. During that time, she surely did not have time or means to accumulate the property noted on the public sale notice. It appears as though Lydia's family lived on Deutsche's property and probably looked after his personal effects. This would account for the location of the public sale as the "Seibert Place" and the owner as A. G. Deutsche.

While away to Arkansas, from May through December 1910, Lydia rented out the house in Shipshewana to L. J. Miller. She was an absent landlady; her neighbor J. E. Dillen, a cashier at the bank, took care of the financial dealing and repairs on the house. After an absence of about six months, Lydia moved her family back to Shipshewana and into her home.<sup>68</sup>

The children grew up and left home one at a time. Alta was the first. Bertha married Frank E. Emmert on June 28, 1913. Fred married Blanche Bowerman on June 30, 1917. Wilbert married Ethel May Reno on June 27, 1920. The last, Arthur, married Theresa McGary in 1922.

### **Lydia the Housekeeper**

After all the children were married and out on their own, Lydia began to work outside of the house. She sold her home in Shipshewana to her son Wilbert about 1922 and took jobs working for other people, mostly for room and board. She was a good worker and a wonderful person whom others liked to have around their homes. Being talented at cooking, sewing, mending and general housework, she was in constant demand. During this period (from 1922 until perhaps 1931) she also kept a room at her old house, which her son Wilbert now owned. She had a public sale at her Shipshewana home on Saturday, December 5.<sup>69</sup> No year is noted, but she owned the home until her last child left - Arthur, in 1922, and she moved in with Mr. and Mrs. Kelly in 1931.

On December 5 in 1925, Lydia had a sale of her personal household goods. She probably waited to sell off these goods until Wilbert and Ethel became established and no longer required the furnishings in the house. She stayed in the house with Wilbert when she did not have work. Her income was sporadic, and she often had no income at all. The rest of the family saw to her needs when necessary.





Though her children wanted to help, they were not always in financial situations to allow it. Wilbert and Ethel truly were her temporal salvation and were always there when she needed them.

About 1931 she moved in with a Mr. Kelly and his wife in Howe, Indiana. This afforded her the opportunity to have steady work and remain close to the rest of the family, a situation she dearly loved.

Mr. Kelly was a well-to-do man. His wife was sick, almost to the point of being bedfast. They paid Lydia \$2.00 a week, and room and board. Being close to her family, and afforded the freedom of the house, she was quite content there. While living with the Kellys she not only did all the housework, cooking, and canning, she also took care of Mrs. Kelly and kept a vegetable garden.

Lydia did not drive, so members of her family often provided her with rides. Lydia went with Wilbert and Ethel to family gatherings. Important visits for Lydia were those at the time of births of her grand-children. She did not miss one birth of a grand child, and in most cases was the midwife. She loved being around children and especially enjoyed helping with the babies.

After Mrs. Kelly died, Lydia stayed on working for Mr. Kelly. Because the lady of the house had passed on, Lydia felt as if the house were her own, and she entertained family at the Kelly home. Mr. Kelly died, and again Lydia was out of permanent work. Because of her reputation, she was not unemployed long. A widower, Mr. Plank, of Constantine, Michigan, hired her to keep house for him.

## THE CHILDREN OF DAVID AND LYDIA

The eldest, Alta, did not accompany the family on their travels to Arkansas, but remained in LaGrange, staying with Dr. Hostettler. She was born October 9, 1897 in LaGrange. Alta graduated from Middlebury High School and taught school for one year before she married. Alta married Harry Orton Sigler on June 4, 1908 in LaGrange; he died in March of 1942. To that marriage was born four children, Paul Jay in 1909 (died 1981), Walter Orton in 1911 (still living), Mildred Caryl in 1912 (died 1982), and William John in 1914 (died 1932). Alta was a member of the First Methodist Church in LaGrange, the New Century Club and the La Grange County Garden Club. She was preceded in death by her son William.<sup>70</sup>

The second child, and first son of David and Lydia, Fred, born in Van Buren (Scott) on May 29, 1889. He married Blanche Bowerman in Flint, Indiana on June 30, 1917. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters: Howard, Alice Jane, Fred Jr., Phillip Ross, William Jean, and Lydia Louise, all still living.

Being the oldest son when David died, Fred obviously felt a responsibility to provide for the family. Four years after his father's death, he quit school and began working to help support the family. The work ethic he developed was passed to his sons and is evident in his direct descendants.

Fred entered the Army in 1918 and was injured in grenade training at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. He was hospitalized for quite some time and never went to the fighting in Europe. He was discharged soon after his release from the hospital and had no lasting effects from the injury.<sup>71</sup>





Like his father, Fred took up farming. He did not have a large farm of his own, but often worked farms with other people, with the help of his sons. Unlike his father, he did not rely solely on the farm. In 1935 he bought a grain elevator in White Pigeon, Michigan and operated it until his death on June 29, 1969. Fred loved working horses and died suddenly and unexpectedly while exercising a horse in his barn yard at the age of 80.

At the time of his death, Fred was serving as the White Pigeon Village Assessor, a post he held for several years. He also had served on the Village Council for several terms. He was a life member of the Swartz-Van Fleet Post of the American Legion, a member of the Lions Club, and a World War I era veteran.<sup>72</sup>

Bertha was born April 29, 1892 in Shipshewana and married Frank Emmert on June 29, 1913 in the same village. They lived the remainder of their lives in Tampa, Florida, where they were members of a Wesleyan Church. She died May 22, 1964 in Sarasota, Florida. She is buried at Scott, Indiana.<sup>73</sup>

As of this time more research is to be accomplished on the life of Wilbert, the fifth child of David and Lydia. He was born April 18, 1894 in Van Buren (Scott) and died March 20, 1973 in LaGrange. Like Fred, Wilbert enlisted in the Army during World War I and was a cook. He was involved in the fighting in Europe but never talked about it.<sup>74</sup>

The sixth and final child of David and Lydia was Arthur, the only child to precede Lydia in death, though she was not mentally aware of it. He graduated from Shipshewana High School in 1915. He taught school in Shipshewana and was employed at the Eddy Paper Corporation in White Pigeon. Arthur married Theresa McGary in 1922, and they were the parents of three children, Vivian, Delvin, and Betty.

Arthur was a member of the Scott Methodist Church, and was president of the Van Buren township Farm Bureau for two years. His obituary notes he was well-liked, had many friends, and was a fine family man.<sup>75</sup>

Though these are six children of David and Lydia, they also had another. A female infant who was not given a name was born May 29, 1891 in Van Buren and died about six days later.<sup>76</sup>

## **LYDIA WITH THE HELP OF THE CHILDREN**

Lydia's employment with Mr. Plank ended with both of them becoming senile. During 1944, neither Lydia nor Mr. Plank could take care of themselves or each other, and it became necessary for the employment to end. Mr. Plank's son sent him to a nursing home, and Lydia's children took her in.

The first solution for the family was to rotate care of their mother among themselves. This did not work out well, because the constantly changing surroundings became unbearable for her. About one year before she died she moved in with her oldest child Alta and husband Harry Sigler. This presented special problems for Alta and Harry, because during that last year Lydia required constant supervision.





The trial of the family is best illustrated by two distinct instances. When engaged in conversation, Lydia would often refer to those family members with whom she was living with as "these people I live with." She was cold to them as though they were strangers, but they always understood the situation and treated her with the kindest love. When her only child to precede her in death passed on, she visited the funeral home, accompanied by the other members of the family. When Arthur died March 27, 1948, Lydia did not understand what had happened. She commented at the viewing that the dead man, referring to Arthur, looked just like her son Art. She never comprehended that her son Art was dead.

Lydia went to visit her daughter Bertha for a short while; after one week she died in Scott at Bertha's home, on April 4, 1949 at the age of 85. She had been ill for several months, and her death was not unexpected, but her passing was a true loss to the family and the community.

Up to those last five years, relatives cannot recall one instance of Lydia being ill or otherwise in need of seeing a doctor. She was the pillar of health and always energetic. Perhaps it was because she continuously helped other people that she never took time out for herself. She was loved by everyone and shared her love with everyone. Some of her last service to others were through church aid societies; she always enjoyed attending church. Her descendants who knew her agree that Lydia did not complain, she said what she meant, and never said an unkind word about anyone. Her life can best be summed up by a quotation from her obituary: "Her life was one of unselfish service to others. Her home and her church were her first interests. To know her was to love her."<sup>77</sup>

## **The Bowerman Family and Ancestors**

The exact location of the origin of Bowerman line is still being researched. There is however, evidence that the Bowerman line, involved with the Seybert's, came from the Bauerman's of Bavaria in what we now know as Germany (see Appendix 10, 19th Century Prussia). This particular family immigrated to the United States and eventually made their way to Pennsylvania. This correlates with the earlier discussion concerning German immigration and colonizing habits. Discovered records are not yet complete, but it is probable that Michael Bauerman married after reaching the United States, all his children were born in Pennsylvania. It is also possible that our Bowerman's are decedents of this Michael Bauerman family (see Appendix 11, Family Group Sheet of Michael Bauerman) and eventually made their way to Indiana and the lower peninsula of Michigan. The fifth child of this family, also named Michael, could be the father of the first positively identified Bowerman of our line, Jacob.<sup>78</sup> It is not known when or why the spelling of the last name changed to "Bowerman", if in fact it was the earlier spelling of "Bauerman".

### **First Positive Identity of American Bowerman**

Jacob Bowerman was born January 25, 1795 in New York state and eventually made his way to Adams Township of Seneca County, Ohio. The record is not clear exactly clear concerning if Jacob and Mary Ritter met and married in New York or





Adams. It is a fact they were married during 1816 and had become well established in Seneca County by 1827. They had been married for 60 years when Jacob died August 16, 1876 at 81 years, 6 months, and 22 Days. At the time of his death they had lived on the same farm for 46 years. Mary died on February 16, 1877 at the age of 78.<sup>79</sup> The couple is buried in the Block Cemetery of Adams Township, Seneca County, Ohio.

A quick peruse of Jacob's will reveals several personal aspects of his life (see Appendix 13, A Transcription of the Will of Jacob Bowerman). The most obvious is the fact that Jacob was a very successful farmer and thus left enough money and assets behind to pay off his debtors and still leave his wife the remainder of his property and each child (or heir in the case of deceased children) \$50.00 each. In addition to personal affects, he also owned land in another township in Seneca County, other than Adams. The name of the township is not decipherable on the will and is yet to be searched out. Though successful as a farmer, Jacob did so without benefit of a formal education. He could not write, and probably could not read. This fact is ascertained from his "X" vice a signature to swear out his will.

Jacob and Mary were the parents of eleven children: Simon, Catherine, Michael, John, Henry, Susanna, Jacob, Charles, Isaac, Mary, and Joshua (see Appendix 12, Family Group Sheet of Jacob and Mary Bowerman).<sup>80</sup> Simon was to become the great grandfather of Blanche.

### **Simon Bowerman**

The first child of Jacob and Mary was born January 4, 1820 in the state of New York and named Simon. In 1827 Jacob and Mary moved the family to Seneca County, Ohio. Upon reaching adulthood Simon began farming. He remained a farmer for the rest of his life. Simon married Lydia Spangle on January 1, 1849 in Seneca County, Ohio.<sup>81</sup> In 1872 Simon and Lydia moved their family to Jackson Township of Steuben County, Indiana. Eventually they became the owners of 240 acres of farming land, and were active members of the Dunkard Church.<sup>82</sup> To this family were born six children (see Appendix 14, Family Group Sheet of Simon and Lydia Bowerman). Simon died 1899 and is buried in the Flint cemetery, of Angola county, Indiana. His wife Lydia followed him in death in 1903. This couple share a common headstone which notes the years of birth and death of each.<sup>83</sup> The years of birth and death of their fifth child, Charles is inscribed in the end of the large head stone. Charles died in 1881, eight years before Simon. It is apparent that at the death of Charles, Simon and Lydia decided to have the stone made with room for their inscriptions as well as that of Charles.

Simon and Lydia's eldest child, Rachel, married William Oury. The Oury family was from the counties of Seneca and Richland in Ohio.<sup>84</sup> This becomes significant because it appears this marriage formed a bond between the Oury and Bowerman families. There was at least one instance of a Bowerman/Oury reunion, in Richland county, Ohio. After the marriage of Rachel and William some of the Oury's moved to northern Indiana. During 1910, the time of the one known reunion, the Oury's and many Bowermans of Indiana went by train from Indiana to Richland Ohio for the reunion.<sup>85</sup> These reunions probably continued annually until sometime after 1948.





## **The "Dunker" Church**

Normally discussion of a subtopic such as this would be offered as an endnote or an appendix, however this topic has specific importance to the movement of the Bowerman family. The "Dunker" church is more correctly named the Church of the Brethren. Founded in 1708 at Schwarzenau, Germany, as a protest against the state church by Alexander Mack and seven friends. The name Dunker or Dunkard was given to the followers because of the practice of baptism by immersion three times forward. The members also practice anointing with oil, washing of feet, laying on of hands and the Eucharist.

A principal teaching of the Church of the Brethren is that of peace and the opposition to war, oaths, secret societies, and "worldly" cloths and habits. Because of their beliefs they were persecuted and in 1719 many of the members came to North America. During the American Revolution many of them aided the German mercenaries and were again persecuted by their neighbors. This caused them to move west and they eventually settled in the area of what is now known as Illinois.<sup>86</sup>

This is interesting to look at and correlate with the known information of the early Bauermans and Bowermans. It is suspected that Michael Bauerman left Bravaria and came to North America and became the beginning of this Bowerman line on this continent. His son Michael was born about 1765, about one generation removed from the movement of the Church from Germany. Simon Bowerman is the first known member of this church in the Bowerman line, but since this was not a conventional religion, and did not actively seek converts, it can safely be assumed that his parents were members and so on back for one or two generations. Following this logic, and that the Bauerman family left Bravaria during the early 18th century, it is entirely possible that they left for religious reasons and followed the church to North America. This was a German speaking church and the members tended to stay together and attract other German immigrants. Both of these points have been normal throughout history and we indeed see it in the history of the Seybert family concerning the movement of the Harmony Society to this continent. This same theory may also hold true for the Bowermans.

## **Perry W. Bowerman**

The fourth generation of native Bowermans began with Perry and his wife Alice Jane. Perry was born in Seneca county, Ohio, July 5, 1856. He was 16 years old when his family moved to Steuben county, Indiana. On June 15, 1879 Perry married Alice Jane Johns, better known to family and friends as Jennie. Perry and Jennie were the parents of four children: William, Lydia, Blanche, and Ora (see Addendum 15, Family Group Sheet of Perry and Alice Jane Bowerman). Like his father, Perry took up farming and remained in the farming business until 1918. After leaving farming, before 1920, he moved to a nice home in Flint, Indiana and remained there until his death May 28, 1931. Even after his retirement from farming, Perry remained active on the farm. From this we can ascertain that he very much enjoyed his livelihood. Perry was a member of the Flint Masonic Lodge.<sup>87</sup> A deadly virus noted on the county death entry as "pernicious" which had stricken him





for one year six months finally claimed his life. His death was reported to the authorities by his son Ora.<sup>88</sup>

### **Alice Jane Johns**

Alice Jane was the daughter of Peter Johns and Mahala Race. Little has been discovered concerning Mahala other than her father was Samuel Race and she died on April 16, 1866.<sup>89</sup> Peter and Mahala had five children: Martha, Leonard, Alice Jane, Franklin, and Edward (see Appendix 16, Family Group Sheet of Peter and Mahala Johns). Peter was born March 30, 1833 in Mansfield of Richland county, Ohio. Peter and Alice Jane were married on March 11, 1852 in Richland county Ohio.<sup>90</sup>

After only 14 years of marriage Mahala died on April 16, 1866. Peter, being left with five children, from the ages of 13 years to about five years probably was eager to find a wife. He married a widow named Abigail Black on October 24, 1866, six months after the death of Mahala.<sup>91</sup>

William and Abigail (Mugg) Black were married June 17, 1849 and were the parents of four children: William, Ida, Thomas, and Sarah (see Appendix 17, Family Group Sheet of William and Abigail Black).<sup>92</sup> William died at the early age of 38 on July 2, 1838, his headstone identifies him as a soldier however, no mention is made as to cause of death.<sup>93</sup> Since he is not in the Seybert/Bowerman/Johns line, no further research will be conducted on this matter.

When Peter and Abigail married they combined their individual families to create a new one of nine children. After a short illness of peritonitis<sup>94</sup> Peter died February 2, 1898 at Kinderhook of Branch county, Michigan. His obituary rounds out his life by recording:

Mr. Johns was a quiet, unassuming citizen, kind and affectionate in his domestic and social relations, and commanded the respect of all who knew him.<sup>95</sup>

### **Samuel Race**

The 1850 census of Madison, Richland county, Ohio lists Samuel Race as 52 years old, born in Pennsylvania, and a farmer with real estate valued at \$1000.00. Also listed on the same census report are the following with the accompanying age: Rebecca, 30; John 28; Samuel, 25; and Job, 22; all born in Pennsylvania. Listed as born in Ohio are: Mahala, 20; Margaret, 18; Rebecca 16; James S. and George M. both 14, both annotated as twins; last listed is Thomas, 12 (see Appendix 18, 1850 Census Report of Madison, Richland, Ohio).<sup>96</sup> For family organization (see Appendix 18, Family Group Sheet of Samuel Race).

### **Thomas Johns**

Thomas Johns' will was in probate on May 16 1844 and cleared probate on August 12, 1844. Thomas and Mary were the parents of ten children: Peter, Love, Rachael, Barbara, Sarah, Mary, Becca Ann, Miatilda, Elizabeth, and July (see Appendix 20, Family Group Sheet of Thomas and Mary). In his will Thomas leaves



to his wife, Mary, a 52 acre farm in Green Township of Richland county, Ohio to include all household provisions and possessions.. Peter, at the time of his father's death was a minor and, as stated in the will, is to take possession of the southern half of the land when he is "of age".<sup>97</sup> When his father died, Peter was 11 years old, and the oldest child in the family and probably was depended on by his mother to help with the family responsibilities.





## SUMMARY

The generations of these families and were times of trials and pains. Their lives were touched daily by the work and paths they took. All of these families were distinctly different but each were strengthened by the times and circumstances.

The generations which followed these reflect traits and attributes that carried through. It became obvious that all of these families, were hard working and honorable. To this day, the descendants of these men carry on the values of hard work and honor. This is especially visible in the line of David and Lydia through their oldest son, Fred.

As in the case of many American families, our ancestors suffered hardships and joys. By learning of their lives, we too can share in the events that make us what we are today. This sharing will lead to a family bond between us and those who have gone before. Just as new friends are not made overnight, developing this bond between us and them takes time and is a labor of love.

Think of the many greats whose names could be handed down to the ages, but who, because of a lack of testing, shall sleep in barely known graves that shall soon lose their little distinction. Untried, they walk along with the mediocre, hardly distinguishable. It's the crisis which distinguishes men, allowing one to surpass another.

Their noonday never knows  
What names immortal are;  
'Tis night alone that show  
How star surpasseth star.<sup>98</sup>  
John Bannister Tabb

Research has thus far failed to uncovered evidence of any renowned worldly work by any of the ancestors addressed in this work. But we, the beneficiaries of those now gone stand as the witness to their lives. We must not allow them to be indistinguishable from others. Though untried, they do not walk with the mediocre, they are the great ones of the Seybert family. They are the cause for our existence, and they have given us the opportunity to leave our mark in the world, let us not forget them.





## Appendix 1

### A Transcription of the Will of Henry Seybert

In the name of God amen! I Henry Seybert of Rapho township Lancaster County and State of Pennsylvania, Taylor, being at present in a weak and sickly state of body but of a good and sound mind and memory thanks be to God, and calling to mind the mortality of my body, and that it is appointed for all men to die do hereby make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I foremost bequeath my soul into the Hand of the Almighty God and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent and christian like manner at the discretion of my executors hereafter named.

Item it is my will and I do order that all my just debts & funeral expenses be fully paid and satisfied.

Item it is my desire and I hereby order that my beloved wife Susanna Seybert shall live on the premises and house where we now live on, until my oldest son John shall arrive at the age of twenty one years and that after my son John arrives at age she shall have the privilege of the back room at the north end of the house and as much room in the cellar as is requisite and if anything should happen that her situation should be disagreeable in such case my son John shall build her a house upon the said farm where I now live convenient and to her satisfaction to live in. I also give her the best mare I have at my decease and her choice of one of the best cows which shall be fed and pastured for her in as good and full a manner as any of the rest on the farm free from all expense to her, and in a fruit year she shall receive from by son two barrels cider and three bushels of apples to pick from where she chooses and she shall have a share in the garden as much as may be necessary, and my son John shall deliver her one bushel salt every year and pay her eight dollars every year and my son John shall deliver to her every year fifteen pounds of hatcheled flax and fifteen pounds of butter the year in such manner and time as she wants it, & likewise yearly two dozen of eggs, all the above bequests to my said wife Susanna Sybert is to be considered as valid as long as she remains a widow, but in case of her marrying again then she shall be paid the sum of two hundred pounds of my estate in full compensation. and the before bequeathed articles in that case shall be void & of none effect.

Item it is my will and I do order when my son John arrives at age my estate both personal and real shall be appraised by four good and sufficient men two of them to be chosen by my Executors hereafter named and the other two by my wife and I leave it to the discretion of my dear wife Susanna Sybert after the appraisement of my land to allow my farm to either of my two Sons viz: John Sybert or David Sybert which she chooses as by the time I expect she can form a judgement who is most capable & fitting to possess my estate, but I expect she can form a judgement who is most capable & fitting to possess my estate, but it is to be remembered and I do hereby order that whichever of my sons possess my estate that he shall pay to his brother a full half of the value which it amounted to at the appraisement, which shall be paid in equal and yearly payments.

Item it is my will and I do order that my wife Susanna as long as she remains a widow shall receive yearly ten pounds of clean wool out of my estate and together with the other privileges before bequeathed to have a full right in the kitchen as much as necessary. And





lastly I hereby constitute and appoint by beloved wife Susanna Sybert Executrix and my beloved friends Abraham Metz and Jacob Shoemaker all of Rapho Township County and State as above Executors of this my last Will & Testament, Hereby revoking and disannulling all former Wills Testaments and bequeaths by me at any time heretofore at any time made declaring this no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Testimony thereof, I the Testator have hereunto set my hand and Seal this third day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six - 1806.

Henry Sybert

Signed sealed published pronounced and declared by the testator to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of us the Subscribers

Christian Long

Henry Acket

Pennsylvania, Lancaster County Ss.

William Bausman, Register for the Probate of Wills and granting Letters of Administration in and for the County of Lancaster

Do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is a just and true copy taken from and compared with the original duly proved and remaining in the Registers Office at Lancaster as will appear reference thereto being had.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the said Office at Lancaster the 18th day of April Anno Domini 1810.

Jno. Tryer

Deputy Register

[Endorsed:] March 3, 1810. Copy Will of Henry Sybert deceased.

Note: This is a verbatim transcription, the capitalization, grammar and spelling are exact as the original)



## Appendix 2

### 18th Century Wurttemberg, Germany

So far I have not researched out the early life of Susanna. I have however, begun to lay the groundwork for a genealogical study and in the process have developed an idea of life in 18th century Wurttemberg. This is only a generalization of the area and may give some insight into why Susanna's father left Germany and the conditions of life there.

Wurttemberg was in the southwestern area of Germany bounded on the west and north by Baden and on the east by Augsburg. Most of its southern border was shared with Switzerland.

The area today where the Kingdom of Wurttemberg was established is hilly and contains mountainous and wooded areas of the Black Forest. It is rich in natural resources. The regional capital is now, and has been for at least two centuries, Stuttgart.

As the accompanying map portrays, Germany of the 18th century was a fragmented country. The Thirty Year's War ended devastated all of Germany. Though the Thirty Year's War ended in 1648, Wurttemberg still suffered the effects in the 18th century. The war was also the cause for the fragmentation. Many of these areas were ruled by petty despots, who taxed the people heavily. Well into the mid-18th century prices remained depressed, late in the 18th century the economic situation began to improve; Wurttemberg was no exception.

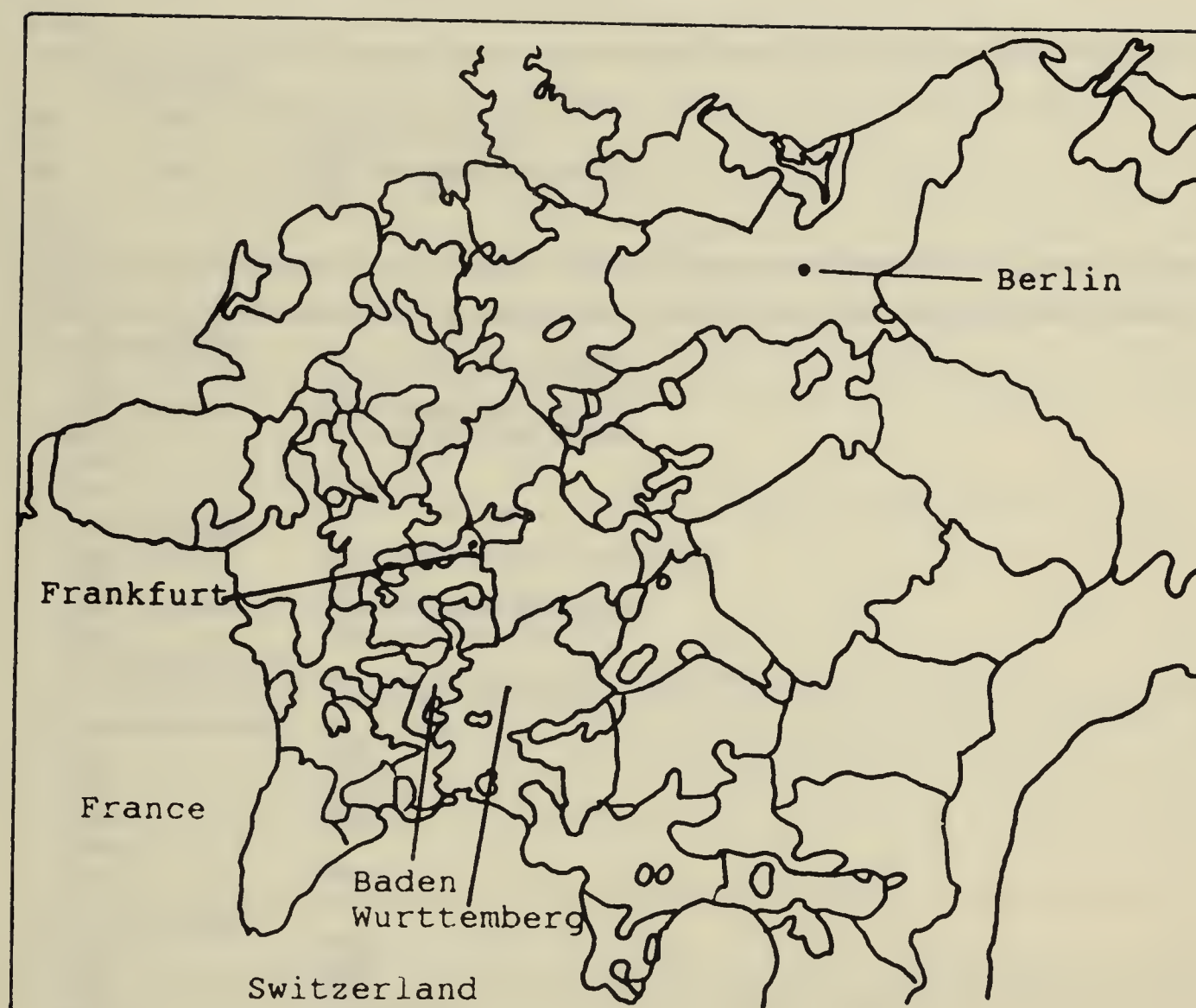
The Henry Seybert family were also devoutly religious, however had questions concerning the correctness of the Lutheran church. It is interesting to note that the German Lutheran church was founded in Baden-Wurttemberg in 1534. The Lutheran church remained very strong in Wurttemberg throughout the 17th and 18th centuries.

Though not substantiated, it is possible that Stephen Kreutzer left Wurttemberg for North America in hopes of finding a new and better life for his small family. This is not uncommon today, nor was it uncommon at that time. It is also not surprising that he set his sights on Philadelphia. By 1790 Pennsylvania had the largest German population in the United States. This exodus of German immigrant began long before the American war for Independence.

An interesting side note is that George Rapp, and his son Frederick, were from Wurttemberg and came to North America a few years after 1803. It is not unusual for them also to settle in Pennsylvania for the same reasons as cited earlier. It makes me wonder if they played on this common homeland to entice Susanna to join their group. Further research concerning how many Germans from Wurttemberg immigrated to North America in the 18th century might turn up very interesting insights.







Source: This map is a representation of - The Encyclopedia Americana, International Edition, 1983 (Philippines: Encyclopedia Americana Corporation, 1983), Vol 12 pg 667.

This is a general representation of Germany during the mid-17th to late 18th century depicting the fragmentation of Germany. Each outline represents an area under control of a certain ruler. Some were referred to as kingdoms, combined they all comprised Germany.



## Appendix 3

### Family Group Sheet - Henry and Susanna Seybert

HUSBAND Henry SEYBERT

BORN: PLACE: ,Hesse,,Germany  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Abt Mar 1806 PLACE: Manheim,York,Pennsylvania,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 MARR: 5 Sep 1790 PLACE: Lancaster,Lancaster,Pennsylvania,USA  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

WIFE Susanna KREUTZER

BORN: 1767 PLACE: Wurttemberg,,,Germany  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1858 PLACE: Economy,Beaver,Pennsylvania,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: John SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 7 Jul 1791 PLACE: Manheim,,Pennsylvania,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 4 Jan 1860 PLACE: Bellevue,Seneca,Ohio,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Flat Rock,Seneca,Ohio,USA  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: David SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 29 Apr 1799 PLACE: Manheim,Lancaster,Pennsylvania,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 2 Dec 1882 PLACE: Scott,La Grange,Indiana,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: ,La Grange,Indiana,USA  
 SPOUSE: Elizabeth HESLER  
 MARR: 24 Feb 1818 PLACE: Lancaster,Lancaster,Pennsylvania,USA

3. NAME: Christian SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Henry SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:





## Appendix 4

### A Transcription of the Power of Attorney of Susanna Seybert to Frederick Rapp

To All People to whom these presents shall come, I Susanna Seibert of the town of Harmony in the county of Butler and State of Pennsylvania sendeth Greeting: Know Ye that I the said Susanna Seibert wife to Henry Seibert late of Lancaster county state aforesaid deceased, have constituted appointed and in my place and stead put Frederick Rapp of the said town of Harmony in the said county of Butler and state aforesaid my true and lawful Attorney for me and in my name place and stead to demand to take and receive from Abraham Metz or Jacob Shoemaker Executors of the last will and testament of the said Henry Seibert late of the township of Rapho and the county of Lancaster aforesaid and state of Pennsylvania or of and from their Attorney or Attornies in that behalf lawfully authorised all that part of the estate of the said Henry Seibert deceased that he left and bequeathed to me the said Susanna Seibert his wife and which the laws of the said state entitles me to, according to the aforesaid last will and testament of the said Henry Seibert. And upon the refusal of the said Abraham Metz and Jacob Shoemaker to pay the said bequest to the said Frederick Rapp I do hereby authorise him to institute suit or suites for the recovery thereof against any person or persons in whose hands the said bequest may be found. And the said bequest so recovered or received and had, to hold for me and for my use. And whatsoever my said Attorney shall do in the premises I the said Susanna Siebert do and shall ratify confirm and allow as fully as if I myself were present and did the same in my own persons. In Witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 22nd day of March AD 1810.

Susanna Her X mark  
Seibert

Witness present - Jacob Neff, Theoph. Langenbacher  
Butler County Ss

Before me the subscriber a justice of the peace in said county personally come the above signed Susanna Seibert and acknowledged the above Letter of Attorney to be her Act and deed for the purposes herein mentioned and as such desired that it might be recorded according to law In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty second day of March AD 1810

Robt. Hays

Butler County Ss

I Jacob Mechling Prothonotary of the Court of Common pleas of said County do by these presents hereby Certify that Robert Hays Esq. before Whom the Within Acknowledgment was taken is a Justice of the Peace in and for said County duly sworn and Commissioned and that full faith and credit was given to all his Judicial Acts as such as well in Courts of Justice as thereout In testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of Office at Butler the twenty third day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & ten

Jacob Mechling Proth

[Endorsed:] Power of Attorney from Susanna Seibert to  
Fredk. Rapp



## Appendix 5

### Family Group Sheet - David and Elizabeth Seybert

HUSBAND David SEYBERT

BORN: 29 Apr 1799 PLACE: Manheim, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 2 Dec 1882 PLACE: Scott, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: , La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 MARR: 24 Feb 1818 PLACE: Lancaster, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA  
 FATHER: Henry SEYBERT  
 MOTHER: Susanna KREUTZER

WIFE Elizabeth HESLER

BORN: 12 Oct 1795 PLACE: , Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1 Apr 1853 PLACE: Erie, Erie, Pennsylvania, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: John SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 18 Aug 1818 PLACE: Lancaster, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 8 Jan 1894 PLACE: , La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Christiniana MERRILL  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: Mariah SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 29 Apr 1822 PLACE: ,, Pennsylvania, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1906 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE: has other marriages  
 SPOUSE: Noah HERSHEY  
 MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Magdaline SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 24 Apr 1832 PLACE: ,, Pennsylvania, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 6 Jun 1893 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Nathaniel DAVIDSON  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Aaron David SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 8 Jan 1836 PLACE: Mill Creek, Erie, Pennsylvania, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 23 Jul 1890 PLACE: Scott, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: , La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 SPOUSE: Mary BROWN  
 MARR: 15 Aug 1861 PLACE: , Crawford, Ohio, USA





# Family Group Sheet - David and Elizabeth Seybert (continued)

HUSBAND David SEYBERT  
WIFE Elizabeth HESLER

Yr of Birth 1799  
Yr of Birth 1795

## CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Christain SEYBERT  
---- BORN: 17 Jul 1828 PLACE:  
M CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: 9 Jun 1863 PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE: Emeline WARREN  
MARR: PLACE:

6. NAME: Elizabeth SEYBERT  
---- BORN: 30 Mar 1820 PLACE:  
F CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: 19 Jan 1869 PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE: Christian SCHOTT  
MARR: PLACE:

7. NAME: Infant SEYBERT  
---- BORN: PLACE:  
F CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE:  
MARR: PLACE:

8. NAME: Infant SEYBERT  
---- BORN: PLACE:  
CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE:  
MARR: PLACE:



## Appendix 6

### A Transcription of the Will of David Seybert

The blank spaces are intentional and denote a word that was not legible to me at this time.

#### Will of David Seybert

In the Name of God Amen I David Seybert of Vanburen Township LaGrange County in the States of Indiana & being of sound mind and memory do hereby make public and declare this to be my last will and testament hereby leveling and making void all former wills by me at any time herefore made

First I order and direct my executors as soon after my decease as practical to pay off and discharge all the debts dues and liabilities that may rest against me at the time of my deceased

Second - I give and bequeath unto my son John Seybert two thousand (2000) dollars in addition to the amount he has already had

Third - I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Shott deceased her heirs two thousand (2000) dollars in addition to the amount she has already had

Fourth - I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mariah Herschy two thousand dollars (2000) in addition to the amount she has already had

Fifth - I give and bequeath the remainder of my estate both real and personal equally among my six children in addition to what they have already had Namely: John Seybert Elizabeth Shott & her heirs Mariah Herschy Magdalena Davidson Aaron Seybert and heirs of Christian Seybert deceased

Sixth I order and direct - my herein after named Executors to have my real and personal property appraised by three disinterested men and disposed of to the best advantage

Seventh - I hereby nominate and appoint John Seybert and Danie Boyer my Executors

In witness whereof I have -----

my name this 15th day of May AD 1876

at ----- La Grange Co Indiana

David Seybert (Seal)

The above and foregoing instrument was at the date thereof signed sealed published and declared by the said David Seybert as and for his last will and testament in presence of as who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names witness

W Rawls ---- LaGrange Co Indiana





J F Misler ----- La Grange Co Indiana  
State of Indiana

Be it remembered that on the 6th day of December 1882 Williamson Rawles one of the subscribing witnesses to the within and foregoing last will and testament of David Seybert - Late of said county the deceased personally appeared before Samuel P Bradford and Clerk of said court of the circuit court of La Grange County in the state of Indiana and being duly sworn by the clerk of said court upon his oath declared and testified as follows that is ----: that on the 15th day of May 1876 he saw the said David Seybert sign his name to said instrument in writing as and for his last will and testament and that this ----- at the same time heard the said David Seybert declare the said instrument in writing to be his last will and testament and that the said instrument in writing was at the same time at the request of the said David Seybert and with his consent attested and subscribed by the said Williamson Rawls and J F Misler in the presence of said testates and in the presence of each other as subscribing witness thereto and that the said David Seybert was at the time of the signing and subscribing of the said instrument in writing as aforesaid of full age (that is, more than twenty one years of age) and of sound and deponent mind and memory and not under any coercion or restraint - as the said deponent verily believes and further deponent says not

Williamson Rawls

Sworn to and subscribed to by the

said Williamson Rawls before me (Seal) Clerk of said court at LaGrange the 6th day of December 1882

----- whereof I have hereunto subscribed by name and affixed the seal of said court Samuel P Bradford Clerk  
State of Indiana LaGrange County -SS:

I Samuel P Bradford clerk of the circuit court of LaGrange County Indiana do hereby certify that the within affixed last will and testament of David Seybert has been duly admitted to ----- and duly proved by the testimony of Williamsom Rawls and the subscribing witness thereto that a complete record of said will and the ----- of the said Williamson Rawls in proof thereof has been by me duly made and recorded in book 12 at pages 112 & 113 of the record of wills of said county

In -----whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said court at LaGrange Indiana this 6th day of December 1882 Samuel P Bradford clerk of the circuit court of LaGrange county

Note: This is a verbatim transcription, the capitalization, grammar and spelling are exact as the original)



## Appendix 7

### Family Group Sheet - Aaron and Mary Seybert

HUSBAND Aaron David SEYBERT

BORN: 8 Jan 1836 PLACE: Mill Creek, Erie, Pennsylvania, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 23 Jul 1890 PLACE: Scott, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: , La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 MARR: 15 Aug 1861 PLACE: , Crawford, Ohio, USA  
 FATHER: David SEYBERT  
 MOTHER: Elizabeth HESLER

WIFE Mary BROWN

BORN: 12 Oct 1841 PLACE: , , Ohio  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 6 Feb 1924 PLACE: Scott, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: , La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 FATHER: William BROWN  
 MOTHER: Sarah ELLIS

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Sarah Lewella SEYBERT

---- BORN: 8 Dec 1862 PLACE: , Hill, Illinois, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 3 Dec 1923 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Elroy TRUESDALE  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: David Calvin SEYBERT

---- BORN: 8 Aug 1865 PLACE: Shelby, Crawford, Ohio, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 5 Nov 1897 PLACE: Scott, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Sidener Cemetery, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 SPOUSE: Lydia Ann TROYER  
 MARR: 24 Nov 1886 PLACE: , Van Buren, Indiana, USA

3. NAME: William Alvin SEYBERT

---- BORN: 8 Aug 1865 PLACE: Shelby, Crawford, Ohio, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 8 Aug 1865 PLACE: Shelby, Crawford, Ohio, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Frank SEYBERT

---- BORN: 14 Apr 1867 PLACE: , Crawford, Ohio, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 15 Jun 1938 PLACE: , St Joseph, Michigan, USA  
 BUR.: 18 Jun 1938 PLACE: White pigeon, St Joseph, Michigan, USA  
 SPOUSE: Cora E. SIXBY  
 MARR: 15 Nov 1881 PLACE:





# Family Group Sheet - Aaron and Mary Seybert (continued)

HUSBAND Aaron David SEYBERT

Yr of Birth 1836

WIFE Mary BROWN

Yr of Birth 1841

## CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Harry SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 12 Aug 1872 PLACE: ,,Indiana,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 28 Jun 1947 PLACE: Howe,La Grange,Indiana,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: White Pigeon Cem,White pigeon,Michigan,USA  
 SPOUSE: Nellie HUFF  
 MARR: 28 Jun 1900 PLACE: ,LaGrange,Indiana,USA

6. NAME: Ida SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 8 Aug 1877 PLACE: ,,Indiana,USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 8 Nov 1973 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: George DALMAN  
 MARR: PLACE:

7. NAME: Mary SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 21 Dec 1880 PLACE: ,La Grange,Indiana,USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 26 Nov 1960 PLACE: Sturgis,St Joseph,Michigan,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: White pigeon,St. Joseph,Michigan,USA  
 SPOUSE: Frank REED  
 MARR: 25 Jun 1899 PLACE: White pigeon,St Joseph,Michigan,USA

8. NAME: Carl Morris SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 3 May 1888 PLACE: Van Buren,La Grange,Indiana,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1969 PLACE: Sturgis,St Joseph,Michigan,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Sturgis,St Joseph,Michigan,USA  
 SPOUSE: Florence KIELKOPH  
 MARR: 11 Jun 1913 PLACE: Centerville,St Joseph,Michigan,USA



## Appendix 8

### Record of Auction of Estate of Aaron D. Seybert

Monday Morning, Nov 23rd 1891  
Court Met Pursuant to adjournment

Matter of the Estate of  
Aaron D. Seybert Decd  
W. S. Olney Admin

----- now said Administrator and shows to the satisfaction of the court by the proof of posting and proof of publication filed herein that his final report was filed in the clerks office of the court on the 31st day of October 1891. Which final report and proof of publication and posting and in these words ----. From which happens that said administrator has collected from all sources in behalf of said estate the sum of and has paid

out in the way of debts, \$7166.34

funeral expenses and all other expenses \$6227.28

Leaving balance for distribution to the heirs of said estate \$939.06

Admin furthers shows to the court that said Decedent left his heirs at ----- Mary Seybert his widow, and David Seybert, Frank Seybert, Ella Truesdall, Harry Seybert, Ida Seybert, and Mary Seybert and Carl Seybert, his children. Said Administrator further shows to the court that all the debts of said estate as far as he knew and fully paid and now asks that he be ordered to make distribution in accordance with the terms of his said report. And now again comes said Administrator and files his supplementary report showing distribution in these words \_\_\_ from which he has distributed the sum of \$939.06 as follows.

To Mary Seybert Widow 313.02

" David " 89.43

" Frank " 89.43

" Ella Truesdall 89.43

" Jacob Newman Clerk for the ----- heirs Harry

Ida, Mary, Carl Seybert 357.75

Being total amount for distribution \$939.06

And the court having carefully examined said report and being duly and fully advised approves and confirms said report. It is therefore ordered by the court that said Administrator be discharged from further liability in said cause.





## Appendix 9

### Family Group Sheet - David and Lydia Seybert

HUSBAND David Calvin SEYBERT

BORN: 8 Aug 1865 PLACE: Shelby, Crawford, Ohio, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 5 Nov 1897 PLACE: Scott, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Sidener Cemetery, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 MARR: 24 Nov 1886 PLACE: , Van Buren, Indiana, USA  
 FATHER: Aaron David SEYBERT  
 MOTHER: Mary BROWN

WIFE Lydia Ann TROYER

BORN: 8 Mar 1864 PLACE: Middlebury, Elkhart, Indiana, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 4 Apr 1949 PLACE: Elkhart, Elkhart, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: 7 Apr 1949 PLACE: , La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 FATHER: Adam TROYER  
 MOTHER: Mary STUTZMAN

#### CHILDREN

1. NAME: Alta Estella SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 9 Oct 1887 PLACE: Van Buren, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Nov 1963 PLACE: , La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Osborn Cemetery, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 SPOUSE: Harry Orton SIGLER  
 MARR: 4 Jun 1908 PLACE: , LaGrange, Indiana, USA

2. NAME: Fred SEYBERT Sr  
 ---- BORN: 29 May 1889 PLACE: Van Buren, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 29 Jun 1969 PLACE: White pigeon, St Joseph, Michigan, USA  
 BUR.: 2 Jul 1969 PLACE: White pigeon, St Joseph, Michigan, USA  
 SPOUSE: BLANCHE BOWERMAN  
 MARR: 30 Jun 1917 PLACE: Flint, Stuben, Indiana, USA

3. NAME: Infant SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 29 May 1891 PLACE: Van Buren, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Abt 5 Jun 1891 PLACE: Van Buren, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Bertha SEYBERT  
 ---- BORN: 30 Apr 1892 PLACE: , Van Buren, Indiana, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 22 May 1964 PLACE: Sarasota, Sarasota, Florida, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Sidener Cemetery, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 SPOUSE: Frank E. EMMERT  
 MARR: 28 Jun 1913 PLACE: , LaGrange, Indiana, USA



# Family Group Sheet - David and Lydia Seybert (continued)

HUSBAND David Calvin SEYBERT

Yr of Birth 1865

WIFE Lydia Ann TROYER

Yr of Birth 1864

=====

CHILDREN (continued)

=====

5. NAME: Wilbert SEYBERT

---- BORN: 18 Apr 1894

PLACE: Van Buren, La Grange, Indiana, USA

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 20 Mar 1973

PLACE: LaGrange, La Grange, Indiana, USA

BUR.:

PLACE: LaGrange, La Grange, Indiana, USA

SPOUSE: Ethel May RENO

MARR: 27 Jun 1920

PLACE: , LaGrange, Indiana, USA

=====

6. NAME: Arthur D. SEYBERT

---- BORN: 2 Jul 1896

PLACE:

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 27 Mar 1948

PLACE: Scott, La Grange, Indiana, USA

BUR.: 30 Mar 1948

PLACE: White pigeon, St Joseph, Michigan, USA

SPOUSE: Thressa R. MCGARRY

MARR:

PLACE:

=====





## Appendix 10

### 19th Century Prussia (1814-1848)

The thirty-nine sovereign German states had organized into a German Confederation. The states each had its ruler, most being despots. The confederation was characterized politically by censorship, repression, and ignorance of new ideas. Historical figures such as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels founded the magazine *New Rhenish Gazette* and because of their political views were exiled to England where they wrote *Das Kapital*. During this time however, Germany began to move ahead socially and made significant forward moves in industry. The majority of the industrial growth was related to the beginning of the railroad. Though the country began to see economical changes, the society still suffered from problems with housing, labor relations, sanitation, education, etc.<sup>99</sup>

Despite the industrial, economic, and agricultural growth, there still remained two classes; the wealthy and the poor or perhaps better understood as the oppressors and the oppressed. Things had not changed much since the childhood days of Henry Seybert in the Germany of the 18th century. The despots remained, only the names had changed.

In view of the social problems experienced in Germany during this time, it is understandable that the Church of the Brethren would be persecuted. They were not of the mainstream and opposed the state religion, the despotic leaders surely did not allow for this type of dissidence. Because of the industrial growth in Germany many of the German immigrants were skilled in the steel industry and others were very experienced in the coal mines. Because of this, German immigrants were welcomed additions to the eastern areas of North America, and consequently took up those occupations.<sup>100</sup>



## Appendix 11

## Family Group Sheet - Michael Bauerman

HUSBAND Michael Sr BAUERMAN

BORN: 18 Oct 1711 PLACE: ,,,Germany  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 9 Feb 1795 PLACE: ,,Pennsylvania,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 MARR: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

WIFE

BORN: PLACE:  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Peter BAUERMAN  
 ---- BORN: 24 May 1758 PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1835 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: Johannes BAUERMAN  
 ---- BORN: Abt 1761 PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1835 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Henry BAUERMAN  
 ---- BORN: PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: George BAUERMAN  
 ---- BORN: PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:





## Family Group Sheet - Michael Bauerman (continued)

HUSBAND Michael Sr BAUERMAN

Yr of Birth 1711

WIFE

Yr of Birth

=====

CHILDREN (continued)

=====

5. NAME: Michael BOWERMAN

---- BORN: Abt 1765

PLACE: ,,Pennsylvania,USA

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED:

PLACE:

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE: Mary Elizabeth

MARR: Abt 1785

PLACE: ,,Pennsylvania,USA

=====



## Appendix 12

### Family Group Sheet - Jacob and Mary Bowerman

HUSBAND Jacob M BOWERMAN

BORN: 25 Jan 1795 PLACE: , ,New York,USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 21 Aug 1876 PLACE: Adams,Seneca,Ohio,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Adams,Seneca,Ohio,USA  
 MARR: PLACE:  
 FATHER: Michael BOWERMAN  
 MOTHER: Mary Elizabeth

WIFE Mary RITTER

BORN: 17 Oct 1798 PLACE: , ,New York,USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 16 Feb 1877 PLACE: ,Seneca,Ohio,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Adams,Seneca,Ohio,USA  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

#### CHILDREN

1. NAME: Simon BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 4 Jan 1820 PLACE: , ,New York,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 14 Apr 1899 PLACE: ,Steuben,Indiana,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Flint,Steuben,Indiana,USA  
 SPOUSE: Lydia SPANGLE  
 MARR: 1 Jan 1849 PLACE: Seneca,Stuben,Ohio,USA

2. NAME: Catherine BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 13 Nov 1822 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 19 Jul 1885 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Daniel METZGER  
 MARR: 22 Jun 1851 PLACE: ,Seneca,Ohio,USA

3. NAME: Michael BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 4 Sep 1823 PLACE: ,Seneca,New York,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 26 Sep 1899 PLACE: Flint,Steuben,Indiana,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Sarah Jane GOODING  
 MARR: 30 Sep 1849 PLACE: ,Seneca,Ohio,USA

4. NAME: John BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 1826 PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Bef 1920 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Elisabeth WANN  
 MARR: 25 May 1852 PLACE: ,Seneca,Ohio,USA





# Family Group Sheet - Jacob and Mary Bowerman (continued)

HUSBAND Jacob M BOWERMAN

Yr of Birth 1795

WIFE Mary RITTER

Yr of Birth 1798

## CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Henry BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 6 Aug 1829

PLACE: Potter, Yates, New York, USA

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 24 Jan 1913

PLACE: , Seneca, Ohio, USA

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE: Catherine HOELTZER

MARR: 7 Dec 1854

PLACE: , Seneca, Ohio

6. NAME: Susanna BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 1831

PLACE:

F CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 1916

PLACE:

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE: SWEITZER

MARR:

PLACE:

7. NAME: Jacob BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 1834

PLACE:

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: Bef 1920

PLACE: , Minersville, California, USA

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE: Anna BAUGHMAN

MARR: 28 Feb 1858

PLACE: , Seneca, Ohio, USA

8. NAME: Charles BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 24 Mar 1836

PLACE: , Seneca, Ohio, USA

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 26 Aug 1924

PLACE:

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE: Caroline REITER

MARR: 1862

PLACE:

9. NAME: Isaac BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 1 Feb 1839

PLACE:

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 11 May 1876

PLACE:

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE: Rebecca STIGAMIRE

MARR: 7 Sep 1865

PLACE:

10. NAME: Mary Jane BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 1840

PLACE:

F CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 1906

PLACE:

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE: William C SCHELLHAMMER

MARR: 1906

PLACE:



## Family Group Sheet - Jacob and Mary Bowerman (continued)

HUSBAND Jacob M BOWERMAN

Yr of Birth 1795

WIFE Mary RITTER

Yr of Birth 1798

=====

CHILDREN (continued)

=====

11. NAME: Joshua BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 29 Aug 1842

PLACE:

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED: 11 Mar 1850

PLACE: , Seneca, Ohio, USA

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR:

PLACE:

=====





## Appendix 13

### A Transcription of the Will of Jacob Bowerman

In the name of the Benevolent Father and I Jacob Bowerman of Adams Township Seneca County Ohio do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following

Item first

It is my will that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid.

Second I give to my beloved wife Mary Bowerman in \*\*\* of \*\*\*\* the eighty acre lot of land on which we now live being the west \*\*\*\* of the south west quarter of section thirty \*\*\* in Adams Township Seneca County Ohio to have use and control as she may see proper during her natural life and

Three

It is my will that as soon after my death as is practical that my personal property be disposed of and the claims and amounts due me is collected. That the east half of the south east quarter of section thirty four be disposed of and that the proceeds thereof after paying my just debts and expenses aforesaid. That the balance thereof be equally divided between my children if living if not that their children if any, be entitled to the share that their parent would be entitled to if living.

4th It is my will that the thirty nine acre lot of land off of the west side of the east half of the south east quarter of tractional section three(3) in \*\*\* Township Seneca County whereon disposed of be equally divided between my children and heirs as stated in item three.

Fifth It is my will that after the death of my wife aforesaid that the real estate being bequeathed to her and whatever personal property if any that my then remain undisposed be sold and that the proceeds thereof be equally divided between my said children and their children as stated in item three of this will.

And lastly I hereby \*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* and appoint my son Henry Bowerman the executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made and rattifying this and no other to be my last will and testament. Witness my had and seal this 30th day of June 1876.

His  
Jacob X Bowerman  
Mark

Signed sealed and published by Jacob Bowerman as said for his last will and testament in out presents who as witnesses for his signed the same in his presents.

J W Parris  
Lewis Deiter

(Copied verbatim from a copy of the original. \*\*\* denotes an indecipherable word. The Paragraph numbering are presented as on the original.)



## Executors Account

Final Account

Henry Bowerman Executor of the estate of Jacob Bowerman deceased in account with said estate.

Said Executor charges himself as follows;

To amount in his hands as shown by partial account bearing date Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1879  
\$518.18

-----  
Executor asks credit for the following amount paid out for said estate

Simon Bowerman his share of remainder of estate	50.00
Charles Bowerman " " " " " "	50.00
Susan Switzer " " " " " "	50.00
Michael Bowerman " " " " " "	50.00
John Bowerman " " " " " "	50.00
Jacob Bowerman " " " " " "	50.00
Harrison Detterman Guardian of heirs of Isaac Bowerman	50.00
Mary J. Shellhammer share of estate	50.00
Catherine Metzgar " " "	50.00
Henry Bowerman " " "	50.00
To H. J. Miller for attorney fee	13.18
" Probate court for final account	5.00
	-----
	\$518.18

State of Ohio  
Seneca County

I Henry Bowerman Executor of the estate of Jacob Bowerman do make solemn oath that the \*\*\*\* is a true and correct account of said estate as I verily believe.

Henry Bowerman

Sworn to and subscribed  
this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 1885

Before me H Noble Probate Judge

-----  
I have tallied up the amounts owed out at the time of Jacobs death. After the creditors were paid, there was still money left for the heirs. Total amount paid out to creditors \$3449.02. Total amount paid out to heirs, probate costs and lawyer \$518.18. Total monetary value at death was \$3967.20.





## Appendix 14

### Family Group Sheet - Simon and Lydia Bowerman

HUSBAND Simon BOWERMAN

BORN: 4 Jan 1820 PLACE: ,,New York,USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 14 Apr 1899 PLACE: ,Steuben,Indiana,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Flint,Steuben,Indiana,USA  
 MARR: 1 Jan 1849 PLACE: Seneca,Stuben,Ohio,USA  
 FATHER: Jacob M BOWERMAN  
 MOTHER: Mary RITTER

=====

WIFE Lydia SPANGLE

BORN: 1823 PLACE: ,,New York,USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1903 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE: Flint,Genesee,Michigan,USA  
 FATHER: Jacob SPANGLE  
 MOTHER:

=====

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Rachel BOWERMAN

---- BORN: PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: William OURY  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: Cassie BOWERMAN

---- BORN: PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Joshua BOWERMAN

---- BORN: PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1854 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Sarah M. BAKER  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Perry Walter BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 5 Jul 1856 PLACE: ,Seneca,Ohio,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 28 May 1931 PLACE: Scott, Van Buren, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: 31 May 1931 PLACE: Flint, Stuben, Indiana, USA  
 SPOUSE: Alice Jane JOHNS  
 MARR: 15 Jun 1879 PLACE: Jackson, Stuben, Indiana, USA



## Family Group Sheet - Simon and Lydia Bowerman (continued)

HUSBAND Simon BOWERMAN  
WIFE Lydia SPANGLE

Yr of Birth 1820  
Yr of Birth 1823

## CHILDREN (continued)

## 5. NAME: Charles J. BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 1866 PLACE:  
CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: 1881 PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE: Flint, Genesee, Michigan, USA  
SPOUSE:  
MARR: PLACE:

## 6. NAME: Clarence BOWERMAN

---- BORN: PLACE:  
M CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE:  
MARR: PLACE:





## Appendix 15

## Family Group Sheet - Perry and Alice Jane Bowerman

HUSBAND Perry Walter BOWERMAN

BORN: 5 Jul 1856 PLACE: , Seneca, Ohio, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 28 May 1931 PLACE: Scott, Van Buren, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: 31 May 1931 PLACE: Flint, Stuben, Indiana, USA  
 MARR: 15 Jun 1879 PLACE: Jackson, Stuben, Indiana, USA  
 FATHER: Simon BOWERMAN  
 MOTHER: Lydia SPANGLE

WIFE Alice Jane JOHNS

BORN: 28 Oct 1857 PLACE: Kinderhook, Branch, Michigan, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 28 Dec 1940 PLACE: Elkhart, Elkhart, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: 1 Jan 1941 PLACE: Flint, Stuben, Indiana, USA  
 FATHER: Peter JOHNS  
 MOTHER: Mahala RACE

## CHILDREN

1. NAME: William BOWERMAN

---- BORN: Abt 1882 PLACE:  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Aft 1948 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: MYRTLE  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: Lydia BOWERMAN

---- BORN: Abt 1886 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE: Elkhart, Elkhart, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: has other marriages  
 SPOUSE: William WAGNER  
 MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: BLANCHE BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 26 Aug 1891 PLACE: , Steuben, Indiana, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 29 Jun 1977 PLACE: Sturgis, St Joseph, Michigan, USA  
 BUR.: 2 Jul 1977 PLACE: White pigeon, St Joseph, Michigan, USA  
 SPOUSE: Fred SEYBERT Sr  
 MARR: 30 Jun 1917 PLACE: Flint, Stuben, Indiana, USA

4. NAME: Ora B. BOWERMAN

---- BORN: 5 Aug 1894 PLACE: Jackson, Stuben, Indiana, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 30 Nov 1948 PLACE: LaGrange, La Grange, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE: Flint, Stuben, Indiana, USA  
 SPOUSE: Margaret Ruth BOYER  
 MARR: 9 Mar 1917 PLACE: ,, Indiana, USA



## Appendix 16

## Family Group Sheet - Peter and Mahala Johns

HUSBAND Peter JOHNS

BORN: 30 Mar 1833 PLACE: Mansfield, Richland, Ohio, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 2 Feb 1898 PLACE: Kinderhook, Branch, Michigan, USA  
 BUR.: 4 Feb 1898 PLACE: Harding Cemetery, Michigan, USA  
 MARR: 11 Mar 1852 PLACE: , Richland, Ohio, USA  
 FATHER: Thomas JOHNS Jr  
 MOTHER: Mary SHAW

has other marriages

WIFE Mahala RACE

BORN: PLACE: , , Ohio, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 16 Apr 1866 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER: Samuel RACE  
 MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Martha JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: 1854 PLACE: , , Ohio, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE: Sturgis, St Joseph, Michigan, USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: Leonard JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: 1855 PLACE: , , Michigan, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1942 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Alice Jane JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: 28 Oct 1857 PLACE: Kinderhook, Branch, Michigan, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 28 Dec 1940 PLACE: Elkhart, Elkhart, Indiana, USA  
 BUR.: 1 Jan 1941 PLACE: Flint, Stuben, Indiana, USA  
 SPOUSE: Perry Walter BOWERMAN  
 MARR: 15 Jun 1879 PLACE: Jackson, Stuben, Indiana, USA

4. NAME: Franklin JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: Oct 1859 PLACE: , , Michigan, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:





## Family Group Sheet - Peter and Mahala Johns (continued)

HUSBAND Peter JOHNS

Yr of Birth 1833

WIFE Mahala RACE

Yr of Birth

=====

CHILDREN (continued)

=====

5. NAME: Edward JOHNS

---- BORN: Aft 15 Jun 1860

PLACE: ,,Michigan,USA

M CHR.:

PLACE:

DIED:

PLACE:

BUR.:

PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR:

PLACE:

=====



## Appendix 17

### Family Group Sheet - William and Abigail Black

HUSBAND William BLACK

BORN: 1826 PLACE:  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 2 Jul 1864 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE: Kinderhook, Branch, Michigan, USA  
 MARR: 17 Jun 1849 PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

WIFE Abigail MUGG

BORN: 14 May 1828 PLACE: Penn Yan, Yates, New York, USA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 23 May 1910 PLACE: Kinderhook, Branch, Michigan, USA  
 BUR.: 25 May 1910 PLACE: Kanouse Cemetery, Kinderhook, Michigan, USA  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: William BLACK  
 ---- BORN: 1862 PLACE: ,,Michigan, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: Ida BLACK  
 ---- BORN: 1856 PLACE: ,,Indiana, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Thomas BLACK  
 ---- BORN: 1850 PLACE: ,,Indiana, USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Sarah BLACK  
 ---- BORN: 1850 PLACE: ,,Michigan, USA  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:





## Appendix 18

## 1850 Census Report of Madison, Richland, Ohio

1850 Census—United States										Family History Department									
State		County		Township		Call number		Remarks											
OHIO		RICHLAND		MADISON		444717													
Page	Dwelling number	Family number	Names	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation, etc	Value—Real estate	Birthplace	Married within year	School within year	Cannot read or write	Enumeration date						
	830	833	Samuel Race	52	m		Farmer	1000	PA										
			Rebecca	30	F				PA										
			John	28	m		Laborer		PA										
			Samuel	25	m		Laborer		PA										
			Job	22	m		Laborer		PA										
			Mahala	20	F				OH										
			Margaret	18	F				OH										
			Rebecca	16	F				OH		1								
Twins			James S.	14	m				OH		1								
			George M.	14	m				OH		1								
			Thomas B.	12	m				OH		1								
	</																		



## Appendix 19

## Family Group Sheet - Samuel Race

HUSBAND Samuel RACE

BORN: Abt 1798 PLACE: ,,Pennsylvania,USA  
CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
MARR: PLACE:  
FATHER:  
MOTHER:

WIFE

BORN: PLACE:  
CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
FATHER:  
MOTHER:

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Mahala RACE  
---- BORN: PLACE: ,,Ohio,USA  
F CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: 16 Apr 1866 PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE: Peter JOHNS  
MARR: 11 Mar 1852 PLACE: ,Richland,Ohio,USA

2. NAME:  
---- BORN: PLACE:  
CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE:  
MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME:  
---- BORN: PLACE:  
CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE:  
MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME:  
---- BORN: PLACE:  
CHR.: PLACE:  
DIED: PLACE:  
BUR.: PLACE:  
SPOUSE:  
MARR: PLACE:





## Appendix 20

### Family Group Sheet - Thomas and Mary Johns

HUSBAND Thomas JOHNS Jr

BORN: PLACE:  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: Aft 16 May 1844 PLACE: ,Richland,Ohio,USA  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 MARR: 27 Jun 1822 PLACE: ,Richland,Ohio,USA  
 FATHER: Thomas JOHNS Sr.  
 MOTHER: Mary Magdeline STICKLE

WIFE Mary SHAW

BORN: PLACE:  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

#### CHILDREN

1. NAME: Peter JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: 30 Mar 1833 PLACE: Mansfield,Richland,Ohio,USA  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 2 Feb 1898 PLACE: Kinderhook,Branch,Michigan,USA  
 BUR.: 4 Feb 1898 PLACE: Harding Cemetery,,Michigan,USA has other marriages  
 SPOUSE: Mahala RACE  
 MARR: 11 Mar 1852 PLACE: ,Richland,Ohio,USA

2. NAME: Love JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Rachael JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Barbara JOHNS  
 ---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:



## Family Group Sheet - Thomas and Mary Johns (continued)

HUSBAND Thomas JOHNS Jr

Yr of Birth

WIFE Mary SHAW

Yr of Birth

## CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Sarah Mearidith JOHNS

---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:

F CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

6. NAME: Mary JOHNS

---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:

F CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

7. NAME: Becca Ann JOHNS

---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:

F CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

8. NAME: Matilda JOHNS

---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:

F CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

9. NAME: Elizabeth JOHNS

---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:

F CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

10. NAME: July JOHNS

---- BORN: Bef 16 May 1844 PLACE:

F CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:







The family of Adam and Mary Troyer. Mary is not in the picture; she died January 10, 1899. Chauncey died December 20, 1901. This picture was probably taken between the deaths of the Mary and Chauncey, during 1900. Back Row, Left to Right: Adam and Chauncey Front Row, Left to Right: Amanda, Sevilla, and Lydia







David and Lydia Seybert with their children. Left to Right: Fred, Bertha, and Alta. Bertha was born April 30, 1892 and appears about one year old, this photo was probably taken during 1893.







Lydia Seybert in front of the house in Shipshewana, Indiana, bought with the money from Chauncey's insurance.







Lydia Seybert with her children and their spouses. The only spouse not pictured is Harry Sigler, the husband of Alta. Harry Sigler died March 1942. Arthur, who is pictured, died March 27, 1948. This picture was probably taken between March 1942 and March 1948, about one year before Lydia's death.

1. Wilbert Seybert (Son of David and Lydia)
2. Alta Sigler (Daughter of David and Lydia, married Harry Orton Sigler)
3. Bertha Emmert (Daughter of David and Lydia, married to Frank E. Emmert)
4. Ethel May Seybert (Maiden name Reno, married to Wilbert)
5. Fred Seybert (Son of David and Lydia)
6. Blanche Seybert (Maiden name Bowerman, married to Fred)
7. Arthur Seybert (Son of David and Lydia)
8. Thressa Seybert (Maiden name McGary, married to Arthur)
9. Lydia Ann Seybert
10. Frank Emmert (Married to Bertha)







Four generations are represented in this photo. Standing is Alice Jane Sherman, daughter of Fred and Blanche. Standing is Fred and seated is Lydia Troyer holding her grand daughter, Kathy. Kathy is the daughter of Alice Jane. It is interesting to note that this Kathy is married to David Brener, referenced in this paper as providing information on the earliest Seyberts. This photo was taken in 1943.





This was probably the last photo taken of Lydia, taken at Alta's home in LaGrange, Indiana.







Four generations are represented in this photo. The oldest lady standing is Mary Seybert, wife of Aaron. Standing next to Mary is her daughter, Sarah Ella Truesdale. The lady seated is Sarah's daughter Lola, with her daughter Margaret on her lap. This photo was taken prior to Sarah's death, December 3, 1923.





Ida and George Dalman. Ida was the 6th child of Aaron and Mary Seybert.









Harry Seybert. Harry was the fifth child of Aaron and Mary Seybert. The original photo is noted that Harry was seventeen years old at the time, therefore this was taken in 1899.





Left to Right: Mary Seybert, Florence Seybert (wife of Carl), Carl Seybert, Ida Dalman. The original photo is dated August 1, 1960, three months before Mary died.







Mary (Brown) Seybert October 12 1841 - February 6, 1924

Ida Dalman has written "Grandma Seybert" on the back of the original of this photo. Her Grandma Seybert was Elizabeth, wife of David Seybert. Elizabeth died April 1, 1853 in Eire, Pennsylvania, and there is no record of the Seyberts in La Grange, Indiana prior to Aaron. I believe this is an earlier picture of Ida's mother, Mary; and when she wrote "Grandma Seybert" on it, the inscription was intended for a child of Ida's which would indeed be a Grandchild to Mary.



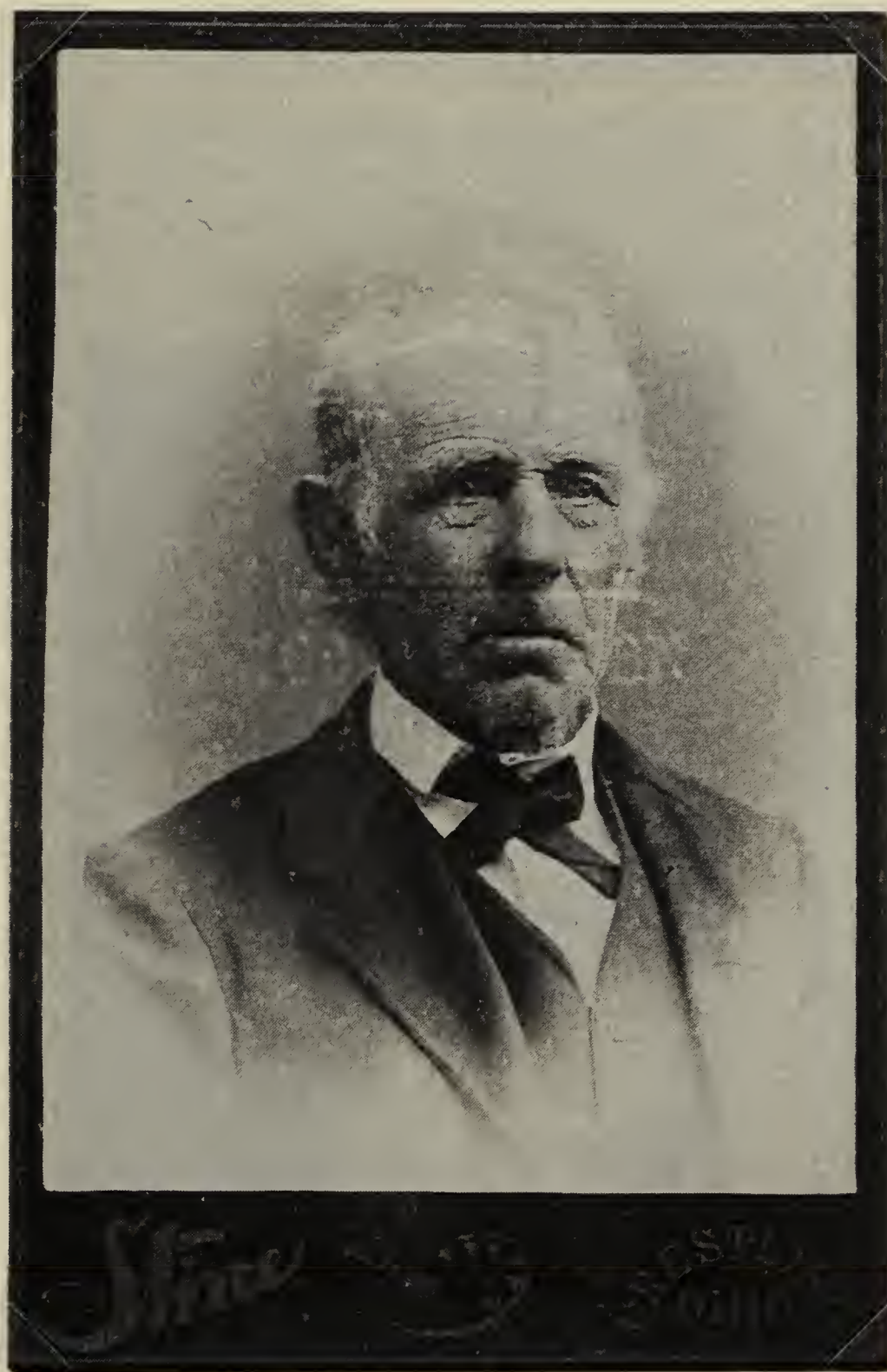


Sarah (Ellis) Brown July 5, 1810 - June 30, 1889

Ida Dalman has written "Grandma Brown" on the back of the original photo. Her grandma Brown did live and die near Crestline, Ohio. This most probably is a photo of Sarah Brown, who was married to Ida's Grandfather, William. Sarah died June 30, 1889.







Aaron David Seybert January 8, 1836 - July 23, 1890

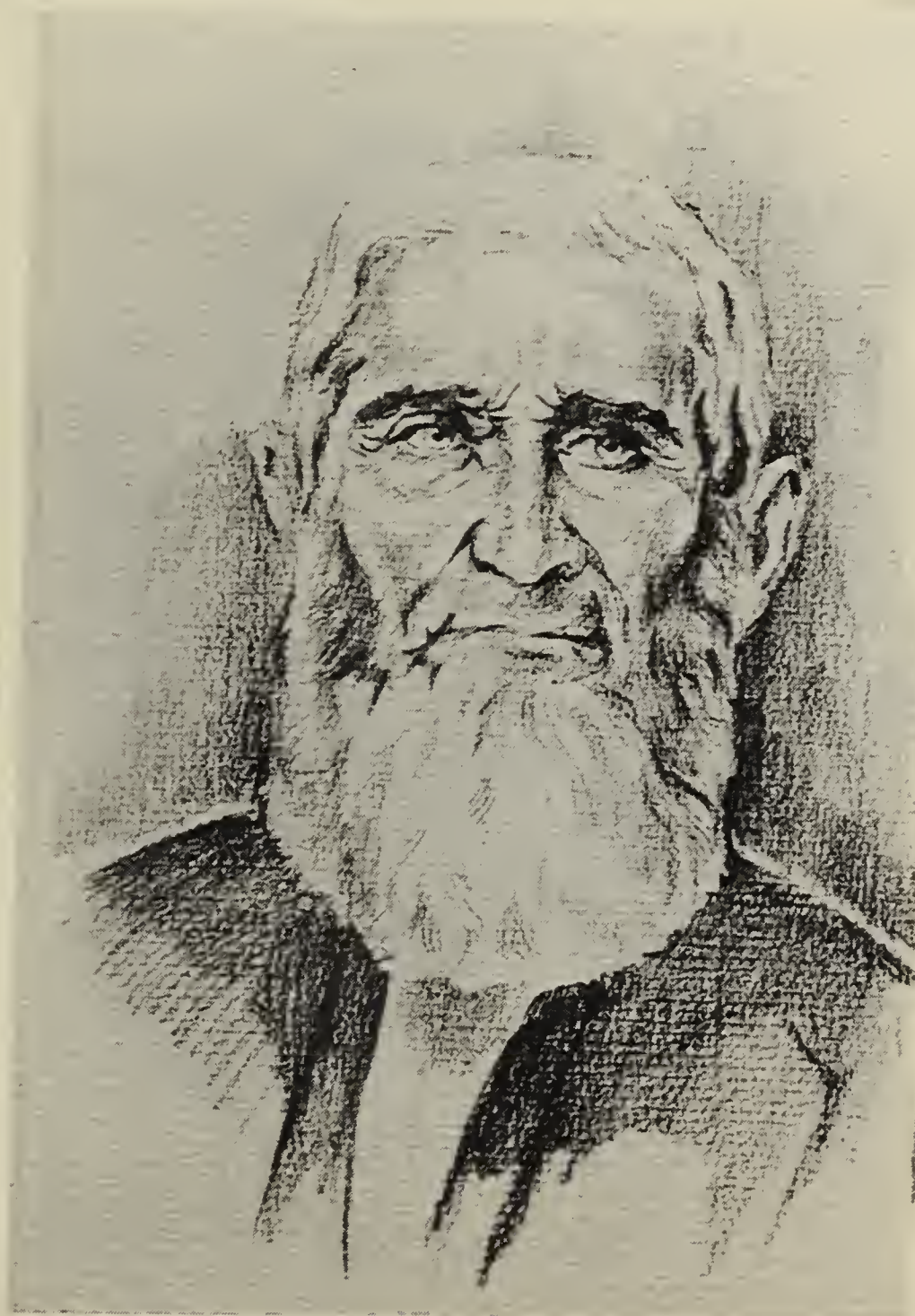




This is a photo of Mary Seybert and her daughters. Back Left to Right: Ida and Sarah. Front Left to Right: Mary (Brown) and Mary.







Jacob Bowerman

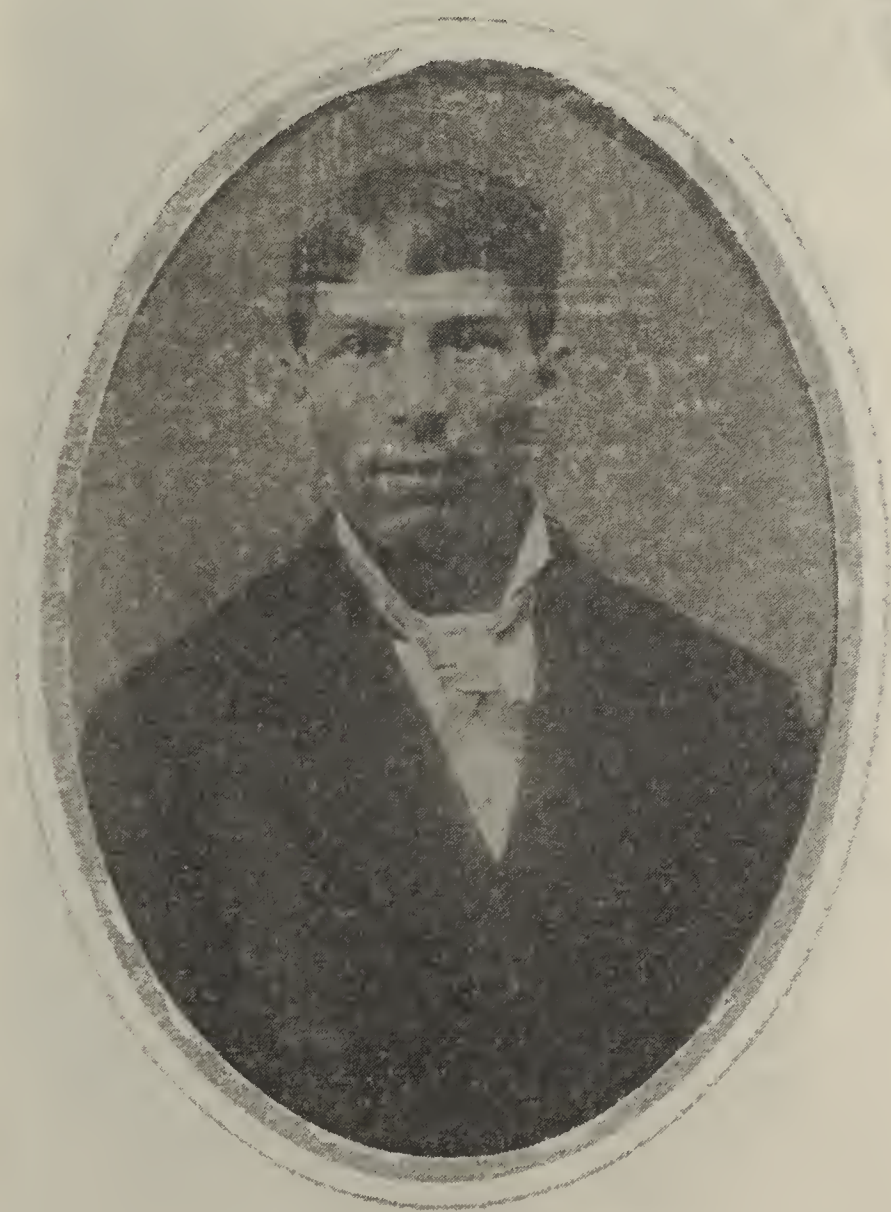




Mary Bowerman







Perry Walter Bowerman





Alice Jane Bowerman







Left to Right - Top Row: Alice Jane Johns and Unknown  
Left to Right - Bottom Row: Aunt Della, Perry Walter, Leonard

Blanche (Bowerman) Seybert identified these people. I believe Alice Jane and Perry were married when this photo was taken and Leonard is Alice Jane's brother. The unknown female and Aunt Della are yet to be identified with a family.







Left to Right - Unidentified couple, Lydia Ann (Troyer) Seybert holding Howard Seybert (Howard was the first child of Fred Seybert Sr. and Blanche (Bowerman) Seybert, Blanche (Bowerman) Seybert, Lydia Bowerman, Alice Jane (Johns) Bowerman, Perry Walter Bowerman. This photo was taken late 1919.







Second boy from left is Ora Bowerman, second girl from right is Blanché Bowerman





Perry and Alice Jane Bowerman with their Grandchildren, Keith (1919-1941) and Barbara (married name Spice). Keith and Barbara are the children of Ora B. Bowerman. This photo was probably taken 1923.







Left to Right - Top Row: Alice Jane, Leonard, Unidentified on the photo  
 Left to Right - Bottom Row: Unidentified on photo, Grandma and Grandpa Johns

The people in this photo were identified by Blanche (Bowerman) Seybert. We know that Peter and Mahala had five children, Martha, Leonard, Alice Jane, Franklin, and Edward. Therefore, I believe the unnamed girl at the right top is Martha, and the unnamed boy in the front left is probably Leonard. My reasoning: Martha was the only other daughter than Alice Jane, and Edward was not listed in the census of 1860, therefore he was probably born after 1866. We also know Alice Jane was born October 28, 1857, married June 1879 (age 22) therefore, this picture probably was taken prior to June 1879. In 1877 Alice Jane was 20 years old, Franklin was 18, and Edward would be at the oldest 19 years old and at the youngest 13 (between the census of 1860 and Peters death 1866). This particular "Grandma Johns" probably is Abigail Mugg Black Johns, Peter's second wife, and not the birth mother of the children listed above. Mahala (Race) Johns died 16 April 1866 when Alice Jane was 9 years old, in this photo Alice Jane is much older than 9 years.







Peter Johns with his second wife Abigail standing in the back is Martha







Childhood photo of Alice Jane Johns



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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>In the course of this research I have discovered several different Seybert families. Since the Henry, who is the subject of this work only had one son who married and consequently carried on his line is traceable. There were however other Seyberts who came from Germany, these may or may not be directly related to this same Henry.

<sup>2</sup>S.P. Spreng, The Life and Labors of John Seybert, First Bishop of the Evangelical Association (Cleveland, Lauer and Mattill, 1888) 11-26.

<sup>3</sup>George L. Heiges, Papers of the Lancaster County Historical Society (Lancaster: Lancaster Historical Society, 1943) 1-6.

<sup>4</sup>In the course of my research I have discovered several families in the United States who use the name "Seibert" and "Seybert". Note that Aaron, the third generation was the first to standardize the spelling to "Seybert". Aaron had five sons, David, William, Frank, Harry, and Carl. It would be interesting to research if the major division of all these "Seibert" and "Seybert" families is actually the spelling of the name which occurred in the early 19th century. Therefore, the "Seybert" family are descendants of the sons of Aaron and the "Seibert" family are descendants of another line.

<sup>5</sup>Clifford Neal Smith, Muster Rolls and Prisoner-of-War Lists in America Archival Collections Pertaining to the German Mercenary Troops Who Served with the British Forces During the American Revolution (DeKalb: Westland Publications, no date) 153, 174. Veröffentlichungen Der Archivschule Marburg Institut Fur Archivwissenschaft, Hessian Troops in North America (HERTINA) Vol III, trans. Inge Auerback und Otto Frolich (Marburg, Germany: Institut Fur Archivwissenschaft 1976) no page noted.

<sup>6</sup>Heiges 2.

<sup>7</sup>Heiges 3.

<sup>8</sup>HERTINA page unknown.

<sup>9</sup>Records of the Protestant Church in Jesberg, Germany 1667 - 1763, the current Pastor, Bernd Dieter Walter Bottner was kind enough to page through these old original records with me and translate from the old German on Sept 2-3 1993. Vital records were kept by the churches in the 17th and 18th century and this old church has a complete and thorough set for the Jesberg area. I am still researching some leads gained from these records, but so far I have not yet uncovered anything too promising.

<sup>10</sup>Records of the Protestant Church, Jesberg, lists no birth for Henrich, or any variation of the spelling in 1760-1762.

<sup>11</sup>David Brener corresponded 1977-1980 with the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association of Worcester, Massachusetts concerning the Hessian soldier question. These letters shed considerable light into the matter but offer no solid conclusion.

<sup>12</sup>Brener, Schwalm Letters.

<sup>13</sup>Heiges 5.  
Spreng 12.

<sup>14</sup>It is not known when or why Henrich (Heinrich) Seibert (Siebert) began using Henry Seybert. It is also interesting to note in his will, Henry used Seybert and Sybert.





- <sup>15</sup>Heiges 4.
- <sup>16</sup>Heiges 4.
- <sup>17</sup>Heiges 4.
- <sup>18</sup>Heiges 4. Dates of birth and death of David were discovered on his headstone at Sidener Cenetery, La Grange County, Indiana. The reference only verifies he was born in Manheim, Pennsylvania.
- <sup>19</sup>Heiges 4.
- <sup>20</sup>This sect was organized in 1800 by P.N. otterbein and Martin Hoehm among the German settlements mainly in Pennsylvania. The group divided in 1889 and in 1940 it merged with the Evangelical Church. This merger formed the Evangelical United Brethern. In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethern united with the Methodist Church.
- <sup>21</sup>Heiges 4.
- <sup>22</sup>Heiges 5.
- <sup>23</sup>Heiges 5.
- <sup>24</sup>Karl J.R. Arndt, George Rapp's Harmony Society 1785-1847, (Rutherford: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, date unknown) pages unknown.
- <sup>25</sup>Spreng 17.
- <sup>26</sup>David Brener, Notes on the Seybert Farm (Lancaster, about 1976, photocopy) 1.
- <sup>27</sup>Paul Allen and Eugene James Turner, We the People: An Atlas of America's Ethnic Diversity (New York: Macmillan, 1988) 51, 55.
- <sup>28</sup>Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, A Dictionary of Surnames (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1988) 491-492.
- <sup>29</sup>The Software Toolworks, Multimedia Encyclopedia, Computer Software (CD-ROM), Grolier Inc., Online Computer Systems Inc., 1992, MPC IBM PC's and Compatibles.
- <sup>30</sup>Karl J.R. Arndt, comp., Economy on the Ohio 1826 - 1834 (Worcester: The Harmony Society Press, 1984) no page noted.
- <sup>31</sup>Spreng 19-23.
- <sup>32</sup>Arndt, Harmony Society pages unknown.
- <sup>33</sup>Heiges 7.
- <sup>34</sup>J.D. Douglas, ed., The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974) 451.
- <sup>35</sup>Ruth Hoover Seitz and Blair Seitz, Pennsylvania's Historic Places, (Barcelona, Printer Industria Grafica, SA 1989) 170.  
Susanna Probably is buried in the cemetery at Harmony. In Harmony, no graves have name markers. This was to preserve the communal equality which the Rapps preached.
- <sup>36</sup>Spreng 18.
- <sup>37</sup>Spreng 21-23.
- <sup>38</sup>Arndt, Harmony Society, page unknown.





<sup>39</sup>Spreng 23.

<sup>40</sup>Brener, Farm 1.

<sup>41</sup>David Brener, Notes on the Seybert Family (Lancaster, about 1976, photocopy) no page numbers.

<sup>42</sup>David Brener correspondence with Lillian Zimmerly in Erie, Pennsylvania date July 28, 1978. Mrs Zimmerly ties into the Seybert line through David's daughter Mariah who married Noah Hershey.

<sup>43</sup>David Brener, The Seybert Family and the Census (Lancaster, about 1976, photocopy) no page numbers.

<sup>44</sup>The City of LaGrange is the county seat for the county of La Grange. Both are often spelled with or without the space. As a general rule and for the purpose of this work, the county will be spelled with the space, the city will not have a space.

<sup>45</sup>Brener Zimmerly Letter.

<sup>46</sup>My father, Fred Seybert Jr., the great grandson of Aaron, has told me the following concerning the swimming hole: As a boy he and his brothers went there often, not only to swim but also to wash. When they went to the hole they took Ivory soap with them to wash with because it would float. Their mother, Blanche (Bowerman) Seybert, made their underwear out of flower sacks and used a different brand for each boy so they would not get their cloths mixed up. Despite the blood suckers, deer flies, and mosquitos, the swimming hole was very important to all the boys of Scott.

<sup>47</sup>Blanche Meyers, comp., Illustrated History of Van Buren (Scott) Village (LaGrange, La Grange Historical Society, 1983) 5 - 120.

<sup>48</sup>These are my impressions of Scott and LaGrange. I have developed them from a few short visits. Although, even with the little exposure I have had, I understand why my ancestors settled in this general area. Still today it appears to be a wonderful place to live. If not for the cold winters, I would follow Aaron's lead and set up housekeeping there.

<sup>49</sup>The work of a cooper is one who makes or repairs wooden tubs and casks.

<sup>50</sup>Spreng 11-388.

Heiges 1-12.

<sup>51</sup>Brener, Census.

<sup>52</sup>Marriage license of Aaron and Mary, Van Buren Township, Indiana, dated 15 August 1861.

<sup>53</sup>Falling Leaves, name and date of newspaper are unknown. This is the obituary of William Brown.

<sup>54</sup>Patron's Dictionary of La Grange County, (LaGrange County, 1874) no page number.

<sup>55</sup>Meyers 145. This reference states that Aaron served as a justice of the peace until 1891. However, we know from his headstone that he died July 23, 1890. His wife held an auction of his property on August 29, 1890 to pay debts and clear up the estate since he died intestate. Therefore, the reference probably recorded the date to which he would have filled the position had he lived that long





<sup>56</sup>Various notes written by Blanche Seybert and others who had personal knowledge and conversations with some children of Aaron and Mary. The notes are not dated and are in possession of Jack Seybert.

Walter Sigler, Great Uncle, Sturgis Michigan, Personal Interview on Seybert and Troyer families, Sturgis Michigan, date unknown, In possession of Jack Seybert.

<sup>57</sup>The record of the auction contains a detailed list of all the items sold, who bought them and how much was paid. A copy of the document is in possession of Jack Seybert.

<sup>58</sup>Marriage certificate is in possession of David Brener, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This information was transcribed directly from that certificate.

<sup>59</sup>Alice Jane Sherman, Aunt, Quincy, Michigan, Personal Interview on Seybert and Bowerman Families, Quincey, Michigan, July 20, 1992. Transcript and tapes in possession of Jack Seybert.

Sigler Interview

<sup>60</sup>Sherman Interview.

Sigler Interview.

<sup>61</sup>Dropped Dead, author, newspaper, and date are unknown. Copy in possession of Jack Seybert.

<sup>62</sup>David Calvin's son, Fred Sr., did some farming but did not own a large amount of land himself. Fred Sr. shared land with other men in the Scott area and worked land for others. The major difference between Aaron and Fred when it came to farming, was that Fred did not solely rely on it for income and lived long enough to be successful. In 1935 Fred Sr. bought the grain elevator in White Pigeon, Michigan, and that became the major source of family income.

<sup>63</sup>Sigler Interview. Being the son of Alta, he has a first hand knowledge of her life as told to him by his mother.

<sup>64</sup>Sherman Interview.

<sup>65</sup>Sigler Interview.

<sup>66</sup>Unpublished letter from Helen F. King of the Kankakee Historical Society to Jack Seybert, dated June 9, 1993. In this letter Ms King makes clear that the history books of Kankakee make no mention of rice farming. However, marchlands in the Momence and Aroma Townships had been reclaimed. Perhaps this accounts for the failure and the short stay in that area.

<sup>67</sup>Mrs Ort Sigler, author, newspaper, and date are unknown. Original in possession of Jack Seybert

<sup>68</sup>Personal interview with Walter Sigler, July 18, 1992. This information from Walter is verified by copies of the receipts for rent and repairs to the house while Lydia was absent. Walter has the originals. The six month period is based on the dates of the rent receipts and the sale bill from the "Seibert Place" in Stuttgart, Arkansas.

<sup>69</sup>The author has a copy of a sale bill citing a public auction at the home of Lydia Seybert in Shipshewana on Saturday, December 5th. There is no year noted. Saturday, December 5th appears in 1908, 1914, 1925, 1931, and 1942. Taking into consideration the move to





Arkansas, when the children left home, and when the last of her children, Wilbert, married, the only logical year for this sale is 1925.

<sup>70</sup>Mrs Ort Sigler.

Sigler Interview.

<sup>71</sup>Personal correspondence from Fred to his mother dated October 7, 1910. In possession of Jack Seybert.

<sup>72</sup>Fred Seybert Sr., author, newspaper, and date are unknown. Original in possession of Jack Seybert.

Several personal discussions with Fred Seybert Jr. Being a son of Fred Sr., he has firsthand knowledge of the information.

<sup>73</sup>Emmert Service in Scott Church, author, newspaper, and date unknown. Original in possession of Jack Seybert.

<sup>74</sup>Marriage license in possession of Jack Seybert. This information taken directly from that certificate.

Sigler Interview.

<sup>75</sup>Arthur D. Seybert Prominent County Man Claimed by Death, author, newspaper, and date unknown. Original in possession of Jack Seybert

<sup>76</sup>The family bible of David and Lydia lists this infant, the bible is in possession of Walter Sigler, Sturgis, Michigan.

<sup>77</sup>Sherman Interview.

Sigler Interview.

Mrs Lydia A. Seybert, Aged County Resident Claimed by Death, author, newspaper, and date unknown. Original in possession of Jack Seybert.

<sup>78</sup>Spice, John K. Notes on the Bowerman Family. (Dhahran, Dec 8, 1992) various pages. This analysis is mine, however, John is responsible for the collection of the vital statistics.

<sup>79</sup>W. Lang, History of Seneca County (name and place of publication is unknown, 1880) 483. History of Northeast Indiana. LaGrange, Steuben, Noble, and DeKalb Counties (Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago and New York, 1920) 168, 414.

<sup>80</sup>Jacob Bowerman is discussed in the above reference (pg 414) in the paragraphs about his son Charles. There is some confusion in the reference concerning Jacobs relation to Simon. In the article about Charles, it notes the Children of Jacob and Mary (Ritter) as: Samuel, Michael, Catherine, John, Elizabeth, Henry, Susannah, Charles, Mary Jane, Isaac, and Joshua (Simon is not listed). However, in the article in the same reference (pg 167) on Perry W. Bowerman, it lists him (Perry) as the child of Simon and Lydia (Spangle) Bowerman, the maternal Grandfather as Jacob Spangle and paternal grandparents as Jacob and Mary (Ritter) Bowerman. It further lists the children of Jacob and Mary as Simon, Michael, Henry, John, Jacob, Isaac, Joshua, Charles, Catherine, Susan, and Mary. As of the printing of the book in 1920, only Charles and Mary were living. Because of the lineage of the Bowerman family which we now know as fact, I agree with the information on page 167 and believe it to be correct. Of further interest - In the same reference, in the article concerning Perry (pg 167), it lists one of the children as Simon and Lydia (Perry's parents) as Charles who died in early life. In the cemetery of Flint, Steuben, Indiana, on the same stone as Simon and Lydia is also





named Charles, who was 15 years old at time of death. It is important not to confuse this Charles with the Charles listed on page 414 of the reference who was the son of Jacob and Mary (Ritter) Bowerman. Charles, the son of Jacob and Mary lived a long life and is written about in the above reference.

<sup>81</sup>Marriage entry, Simon Bowerman and Lydia Spange, Seneca, Ohio, Jan 1, 1849.

<sup>82</sup>History of Northeast Indiana, 167-168.

<sup>83</sup>There is some conflict with the death dates of Simon and Lydia. Their headstone clearly states his years as 1820 1899 and hers as 1823 - 1903. The above reference lists Lydia as born 1823 and died in November 1907. The same article lists Simon as born January 4, 1820 and died April 27, 1903.

<sup>84</sup>History of Northeast Indiana, 135.

<sup>85</sup>Jack Seybert has a large photograph that was taken at the reunion. Alice Jane Sherman told me that she remembers her mother (Blanche (Bowerman) Seybert), telling her about going to the reunion.

<sup>86</sup>Douglas, Internation Dictionary, 228.

<sup>87</sup>History of Northeast Indiana, 168.

<sup>88</sup>Death entry, Perry W. Bowerman, Flint, Indiana, May 28, 1931. The particular virus is not mentioned on the actual death information. The word "pernicious" is an archaic word used to describe an unknown deadly virus.

<sup>89</sup>Peter Johns, author unknown, Kinderhook Courier, February 11, 1898. Copy in possession of Jack Seybert.

<sup>90</sup>Marriage entry, Peter Johns and Mahala Race, Richland county, Ohio, March 11, 1852.

<sup>91</sup>Peter Johns, obituary.

<sup>92</sup>Peter Johns, obituary.  
1870 Census of Richland, Madison county, Ohio.

<sup>93</sup>Unattributed and undated listing of Knauss Cemetery, Kinderhook, Michigan.

<sup>94</sup>Peritoneum is a condition which involves the lining and blockage of the abdominal cavity.

<sup>95</sup>Peter Johns, obituary.

<sup>96</sup>1850 Census of Madison, Richland, Ohio. It is interesting to note that this report lists two Rebecca's, one being 30 and the other at 16. This issue still needs to be researched to determine if the older Rebecca may be a young second wife of Samuel or if Samuel had two daughters named Rebecca.

<sup>97</sup>Anne Lockwood and Dallas Budd, Richland County Ohio Abstracts of Wills 1813-1873, Vol 1 (Mansfield: Ohio Genealogical Society, 1974) 56.

<sup>98</sup>Leroy Brownlow, Today is Mine, (Fort Worth: Brownlow Publishing Company Inc., 1972) Sep 22.

<sup>99</sup>Marshall Dill, Germany, A Modern History, (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1970) 86-103.

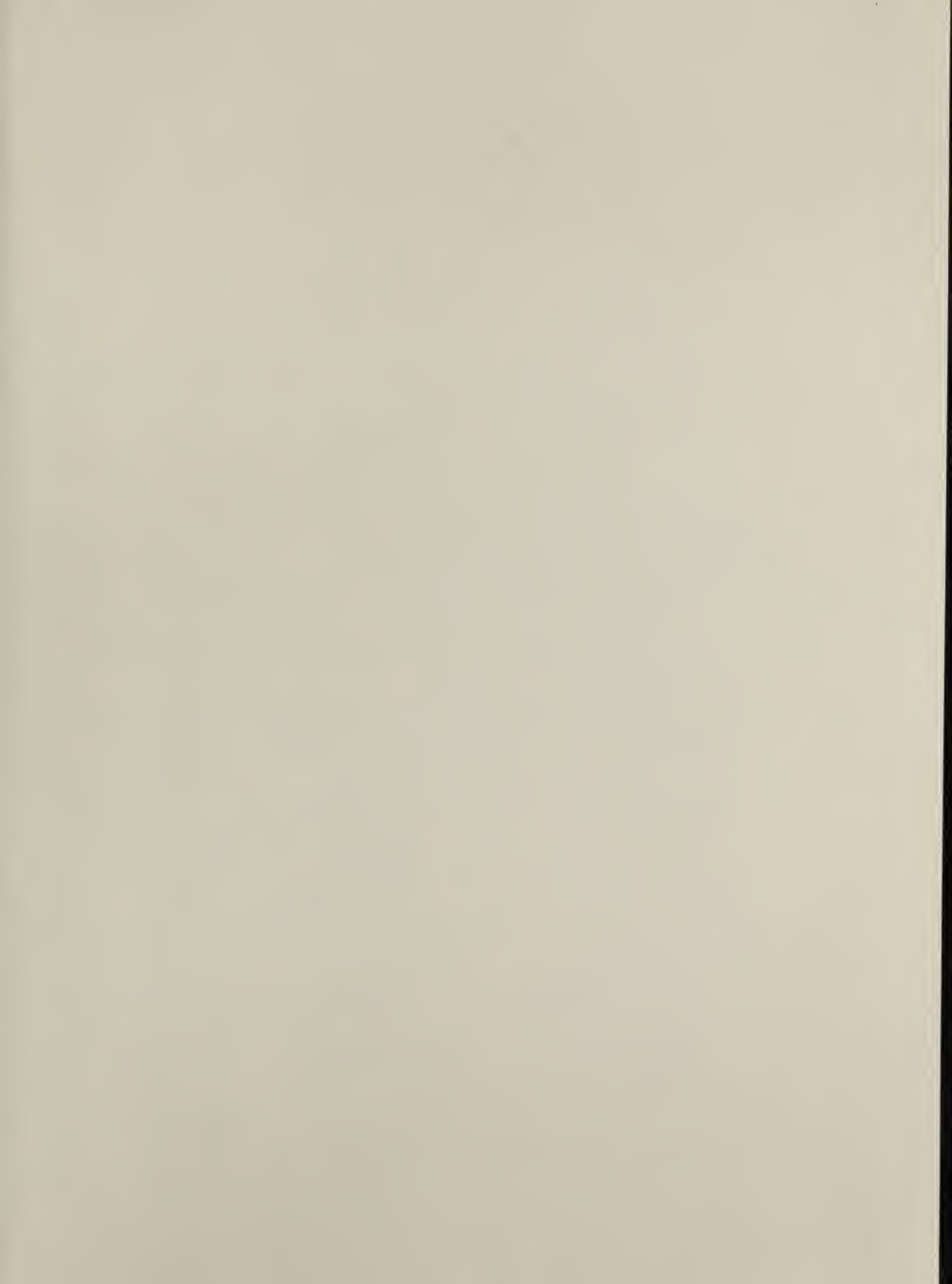
<sup>100</sup>Allen, We The People, 51-55.



















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